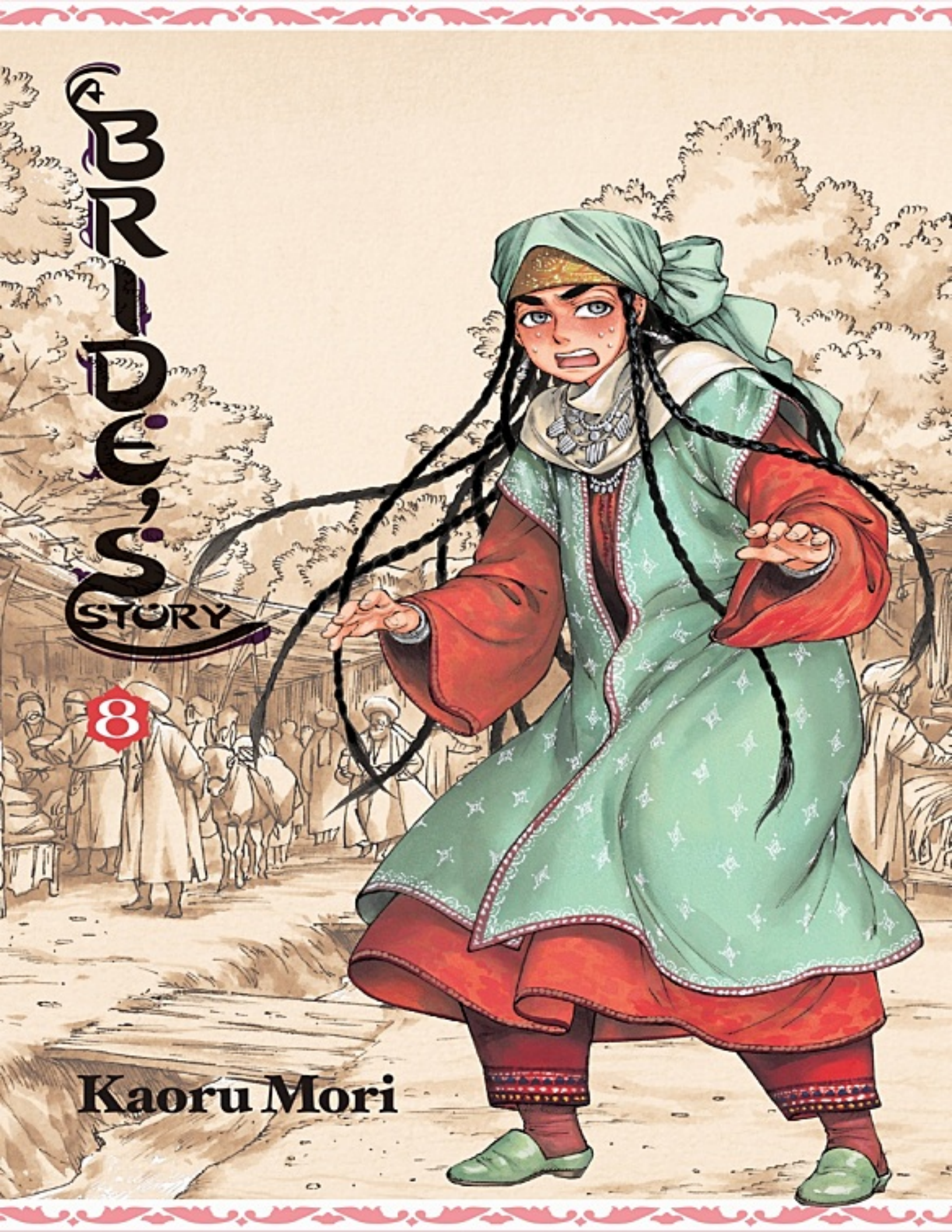


B R I D E ' S S T O R Y

8

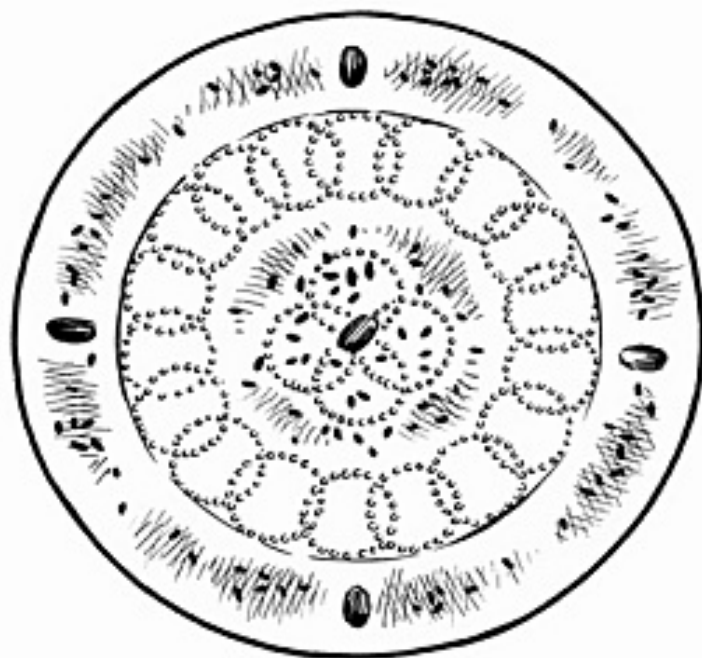
Kaoru Mori



BAR- E.D. S. STORY



Kaoru
Mori



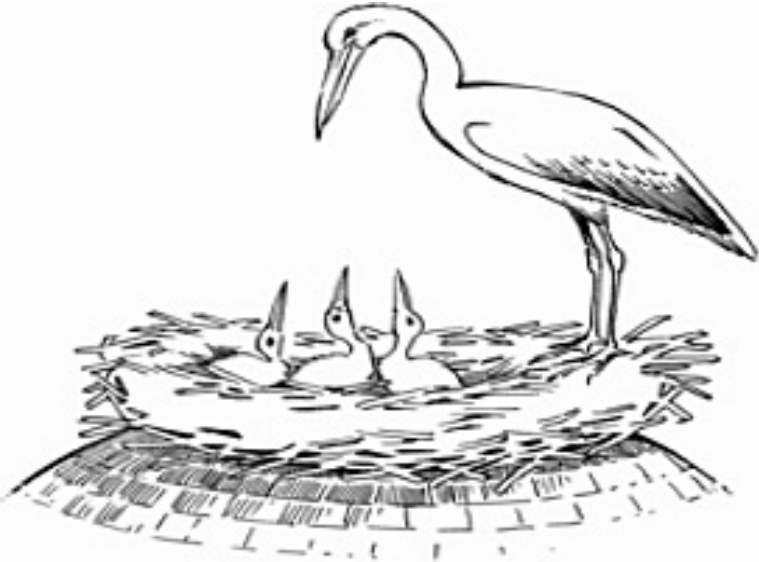


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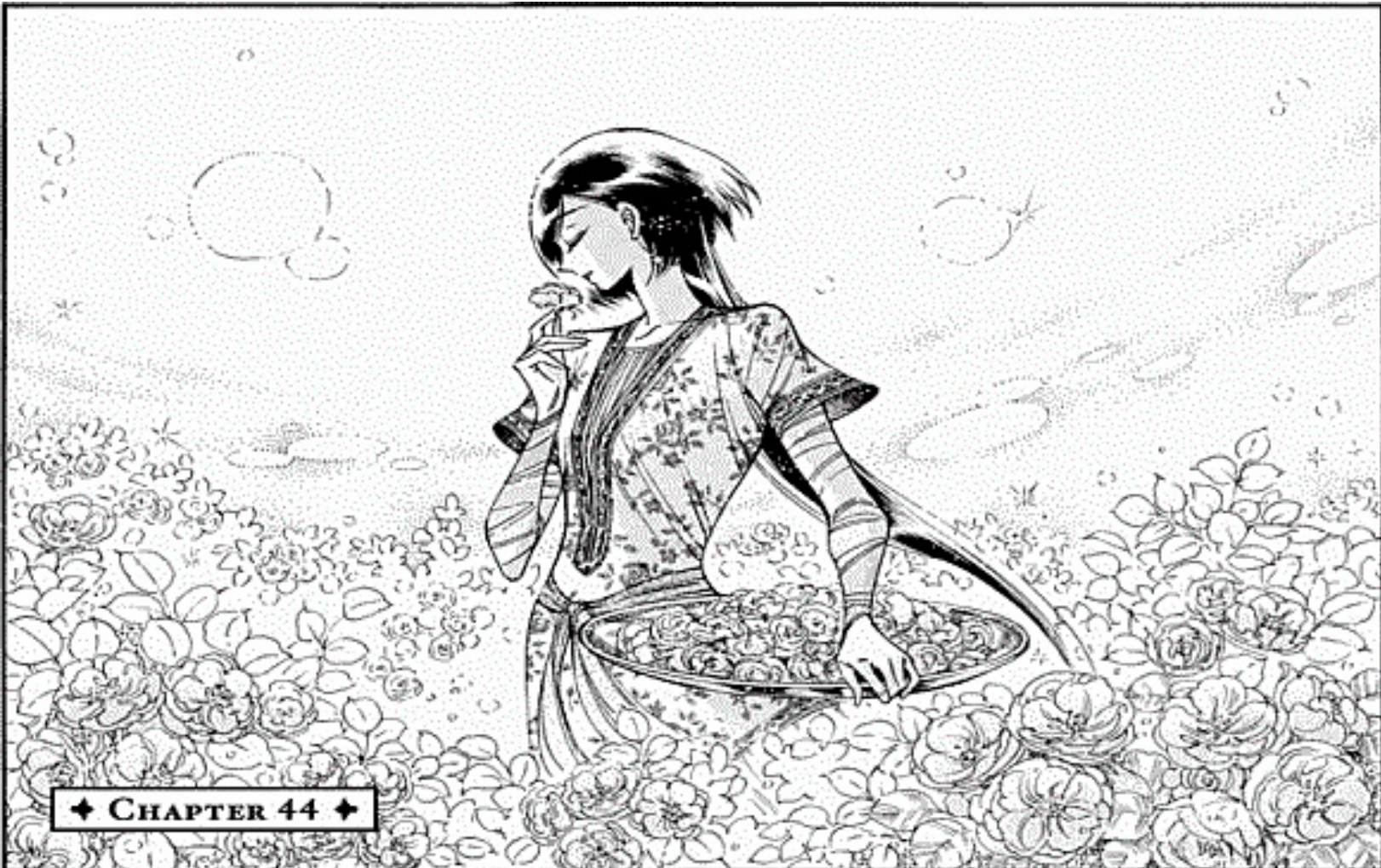
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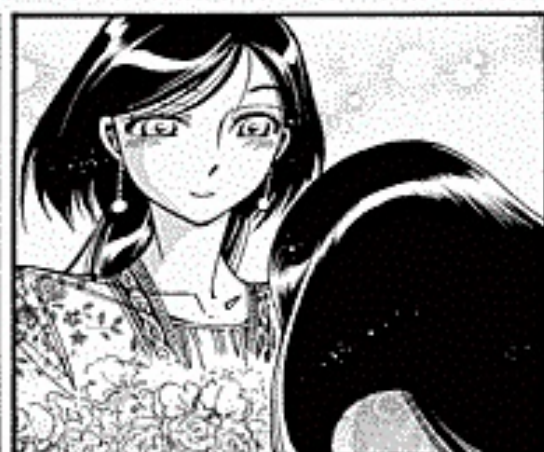
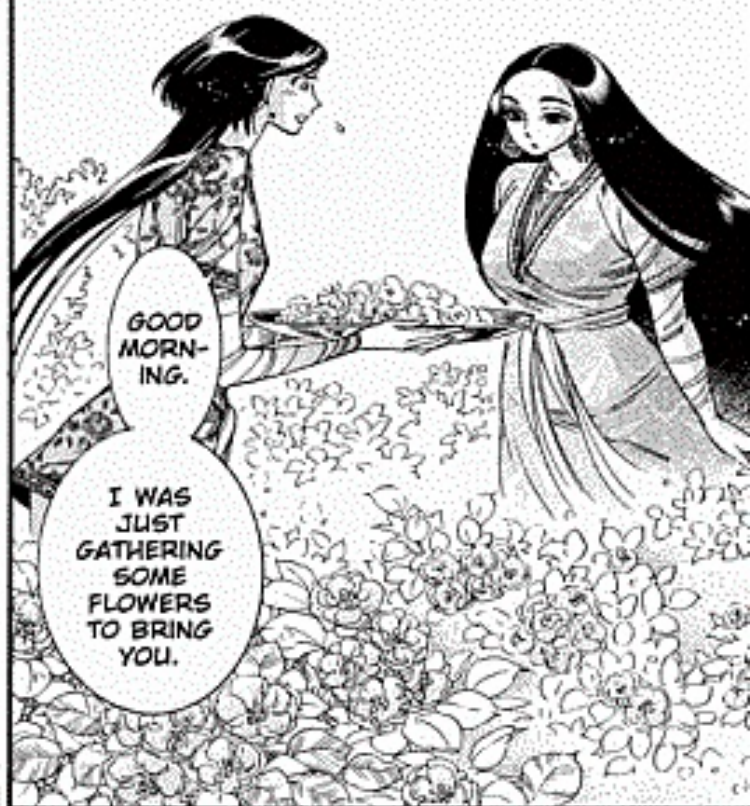
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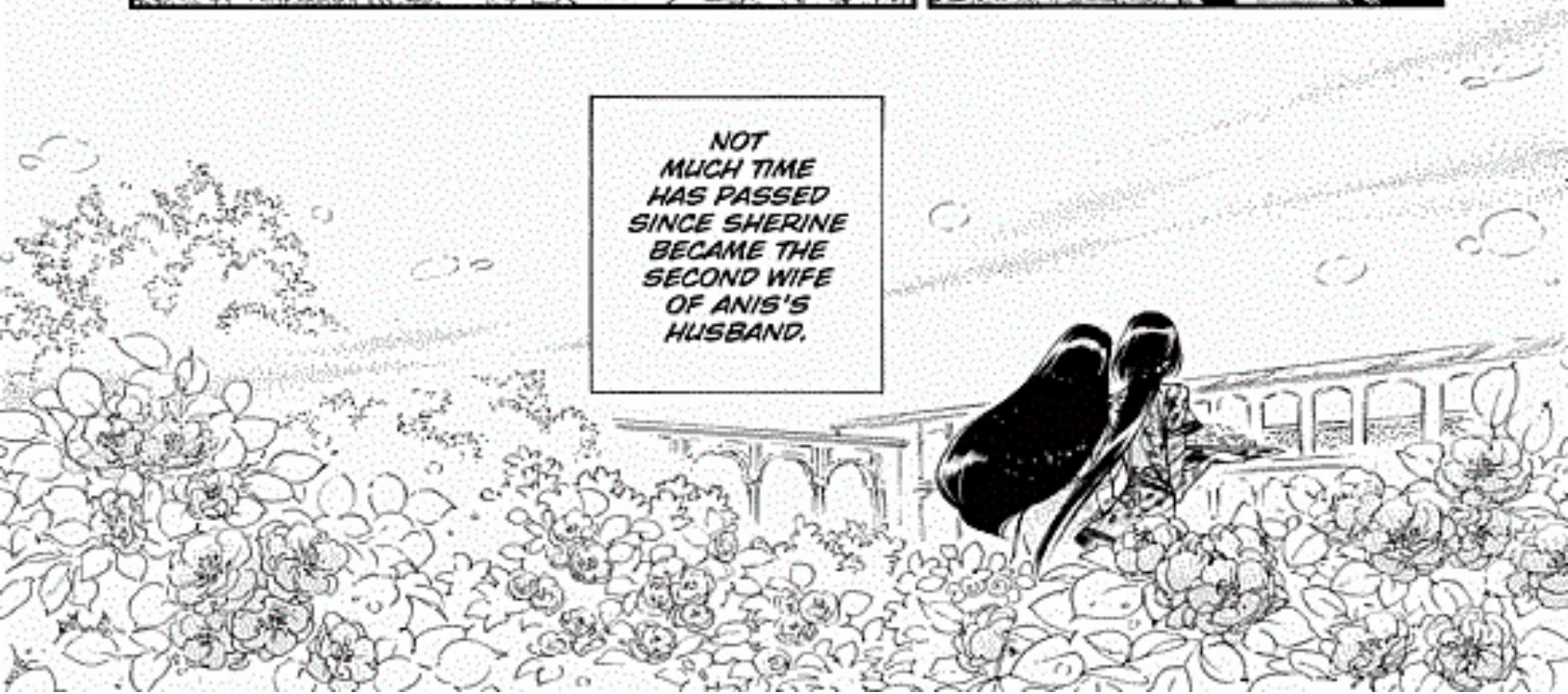
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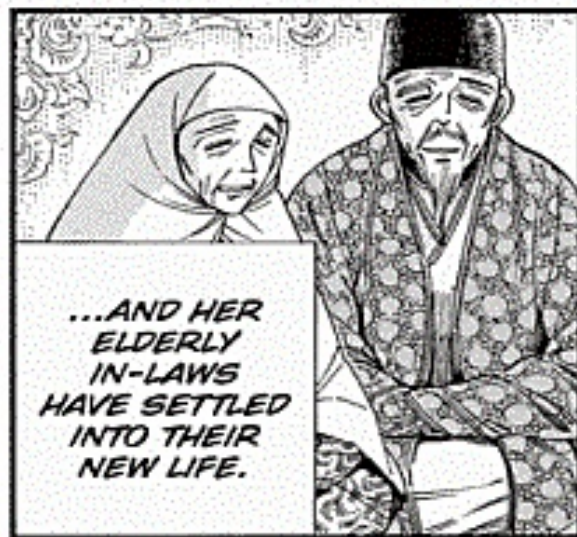
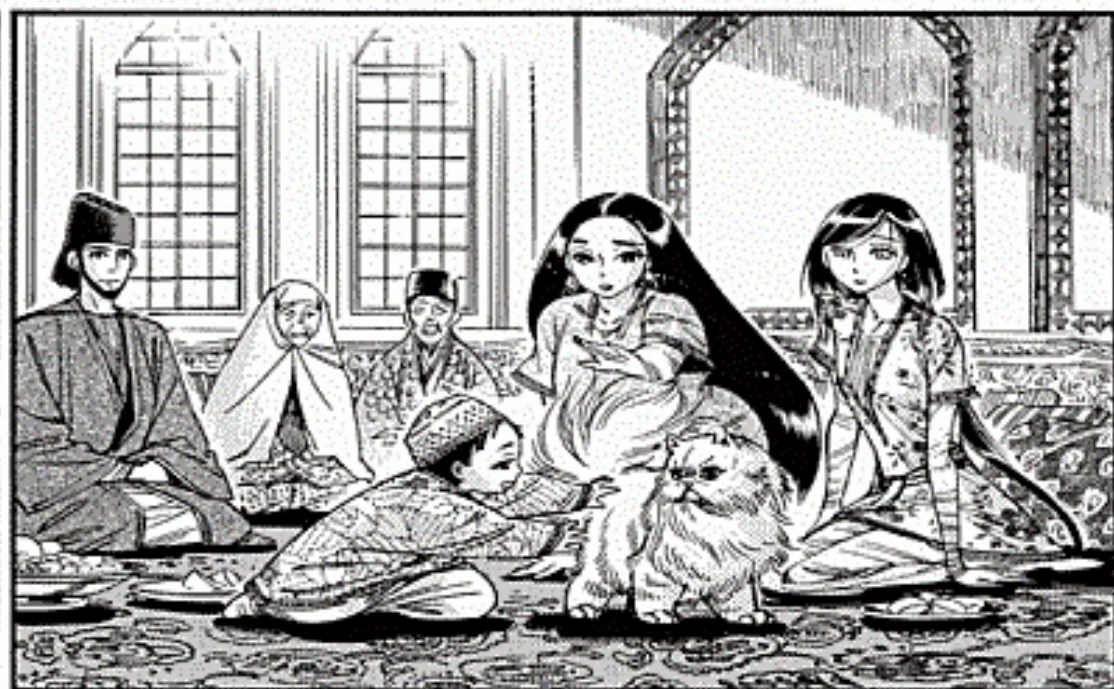
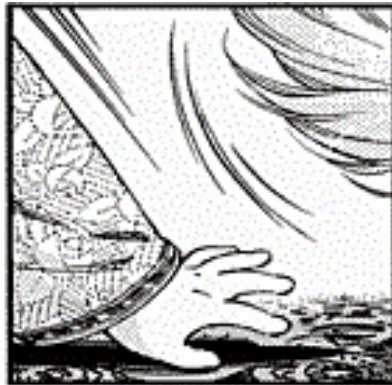
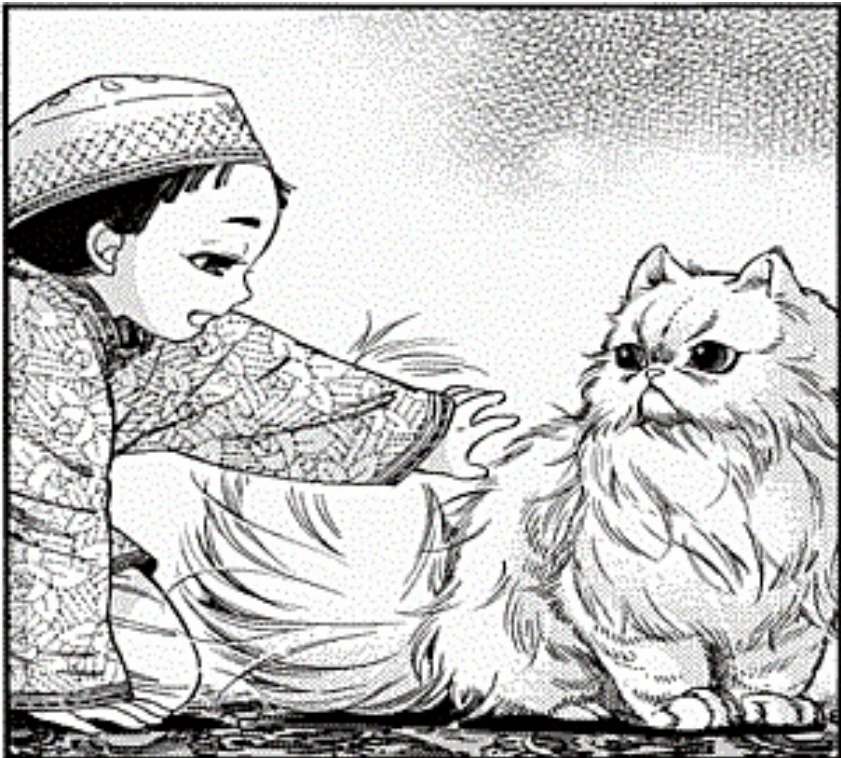
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NOT MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE SHERINE BECAME THE SECOND WIFE OF ANIS'S HUSBAND.





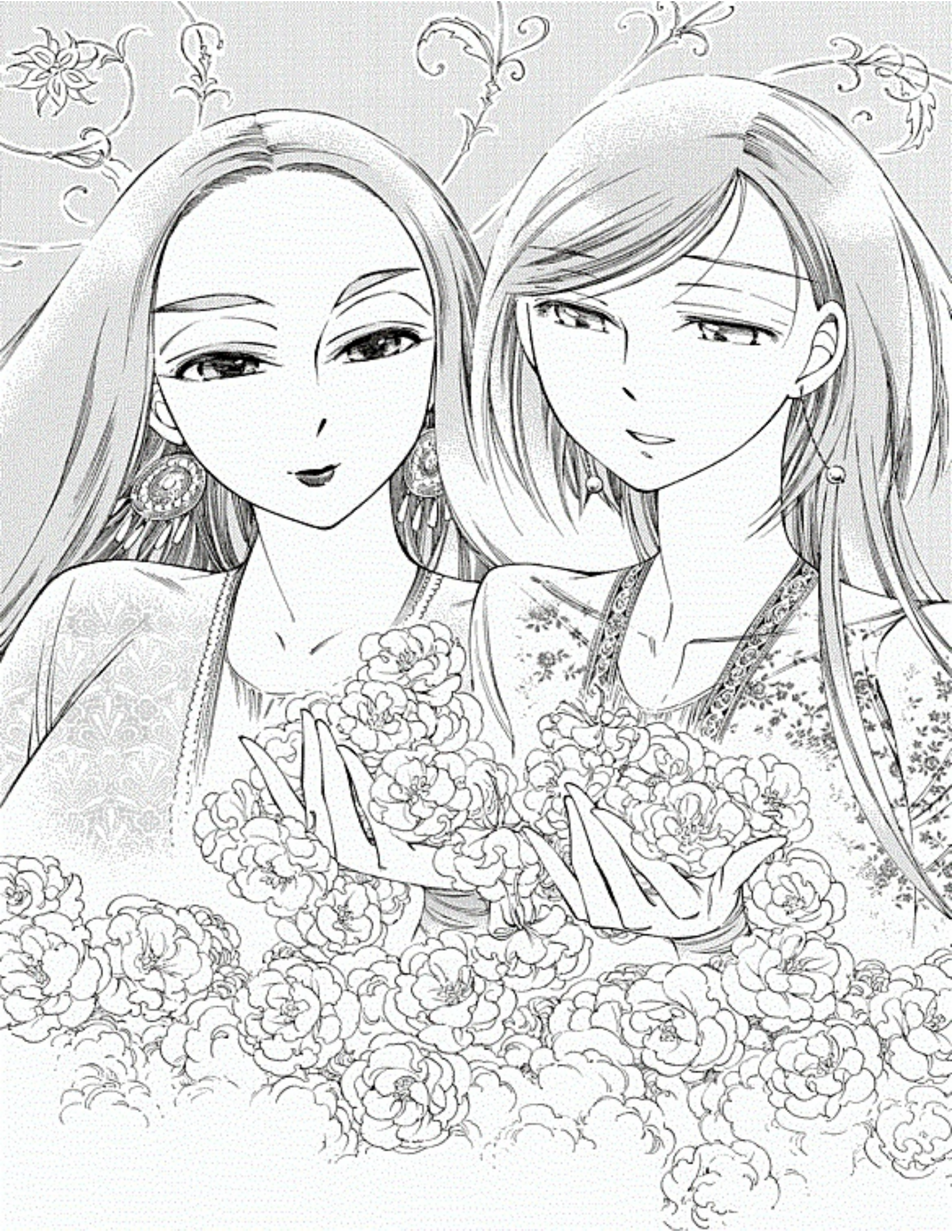
...AND HER
ELDERLY
IN-LAWS
HAVE SETTLED
INTO THEIR
NEW LIFE.

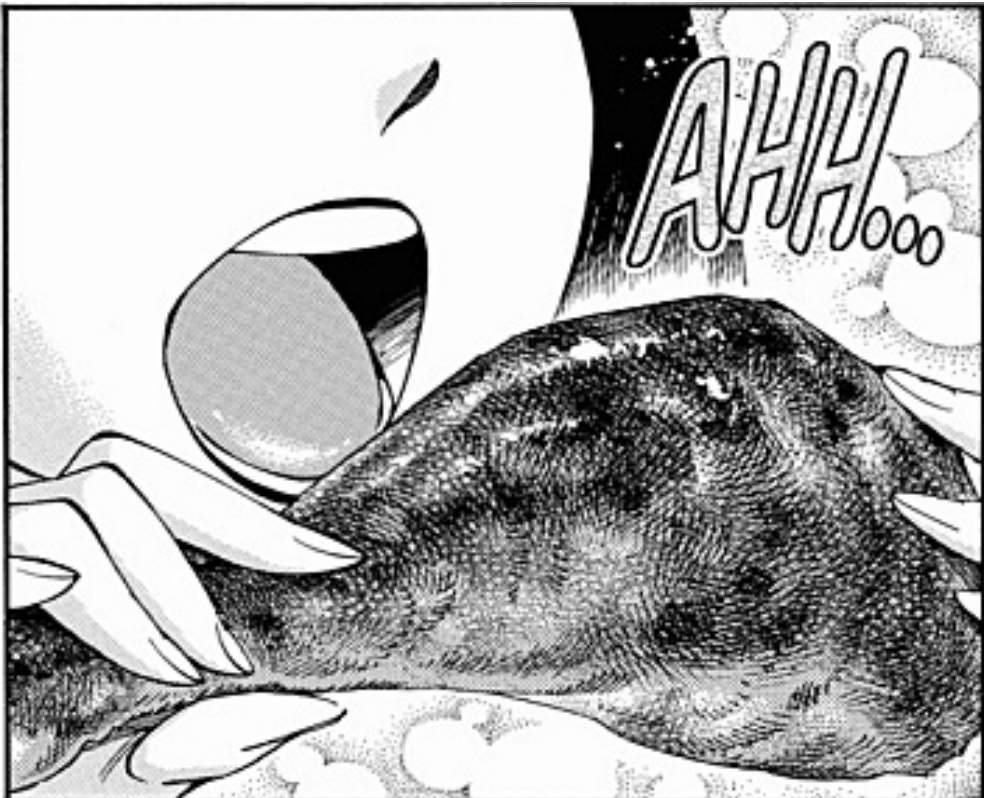


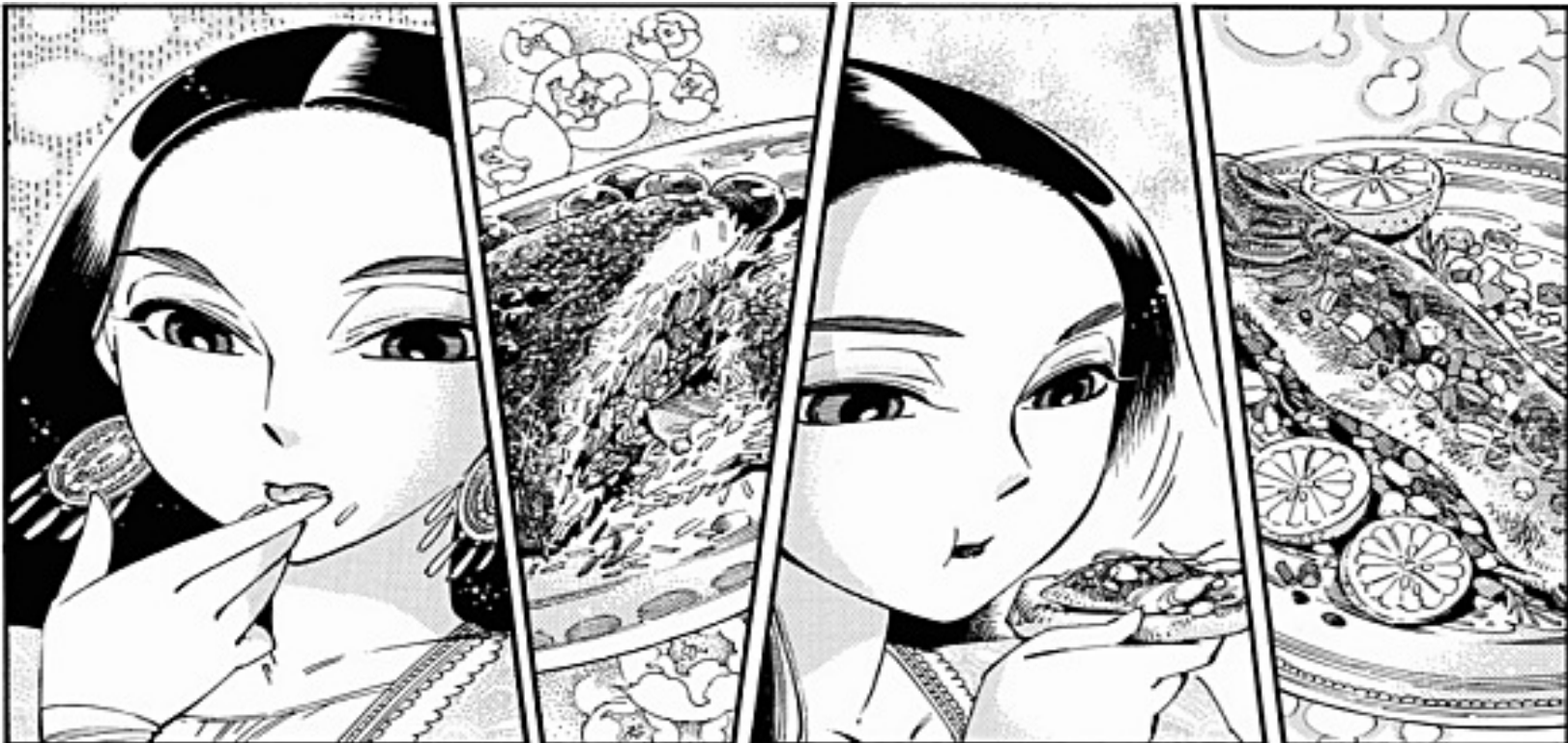
SHERINE
SMILES
MORE
OFTEN...



◆
CHAPTER 44
AT THE MOMENT
A ROSE BLOOMS
◆









GOOD-
NESS...

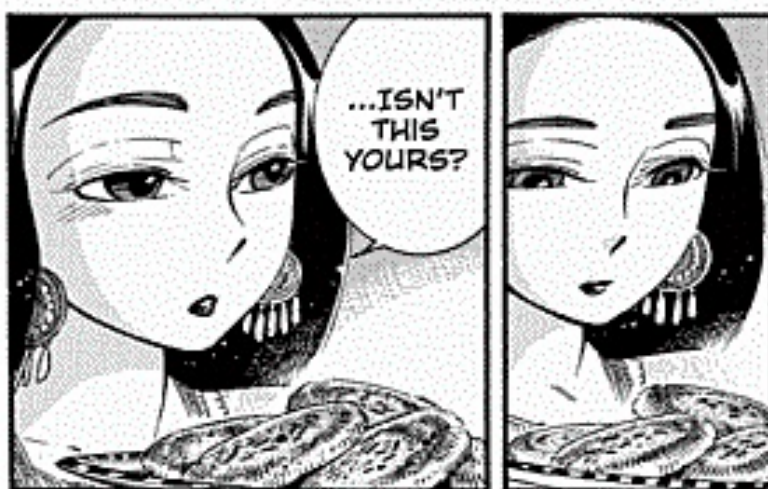
SHE
NEVER
FAILS TO
IMPRESS ME
WITH HOW
MUCH SHE
CAN PUT
AWAY...

IT'S
MESMERIZ-
ING JUST
WATCHING
HER...



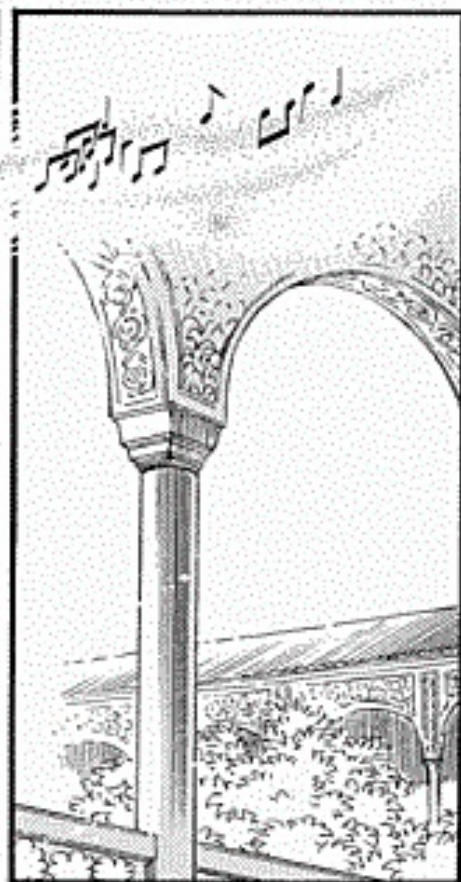
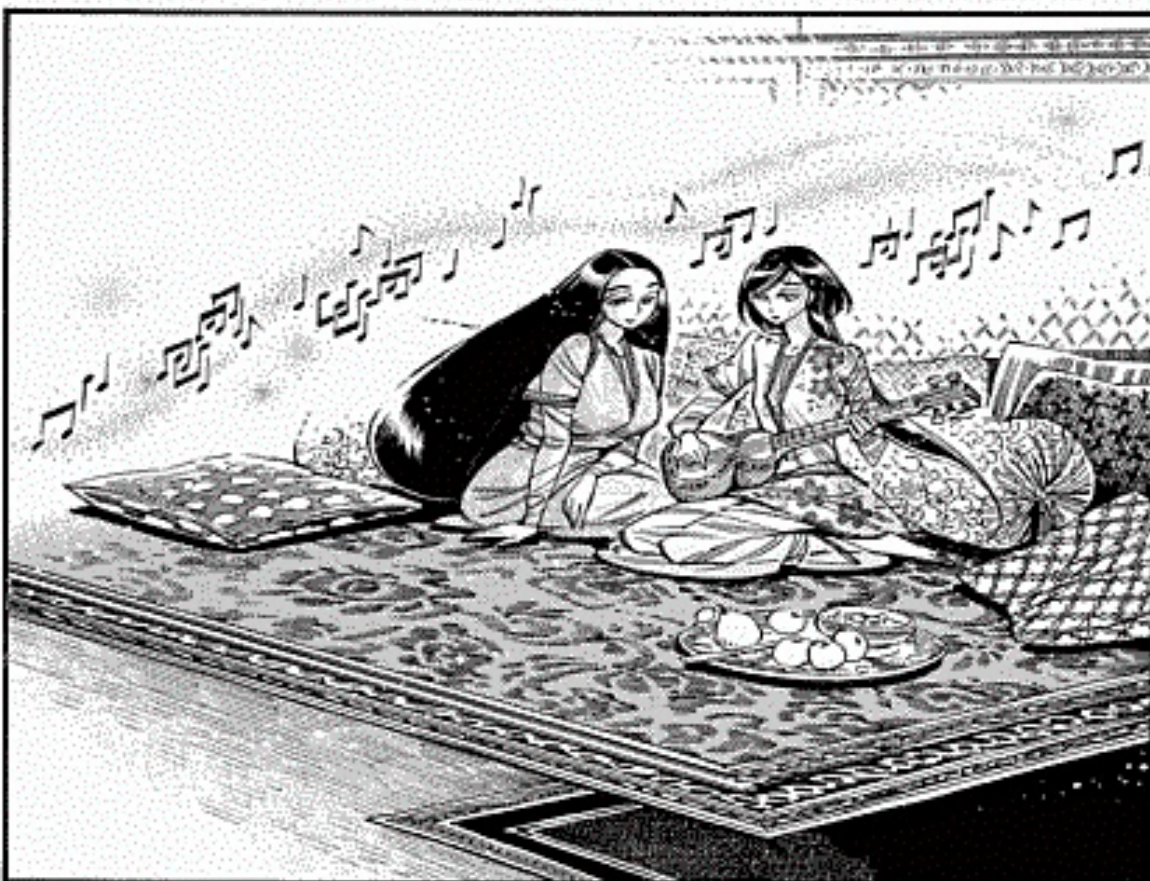
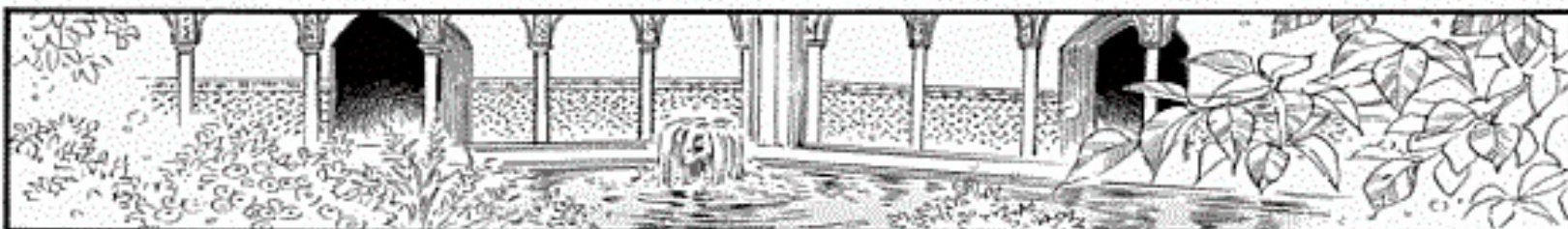
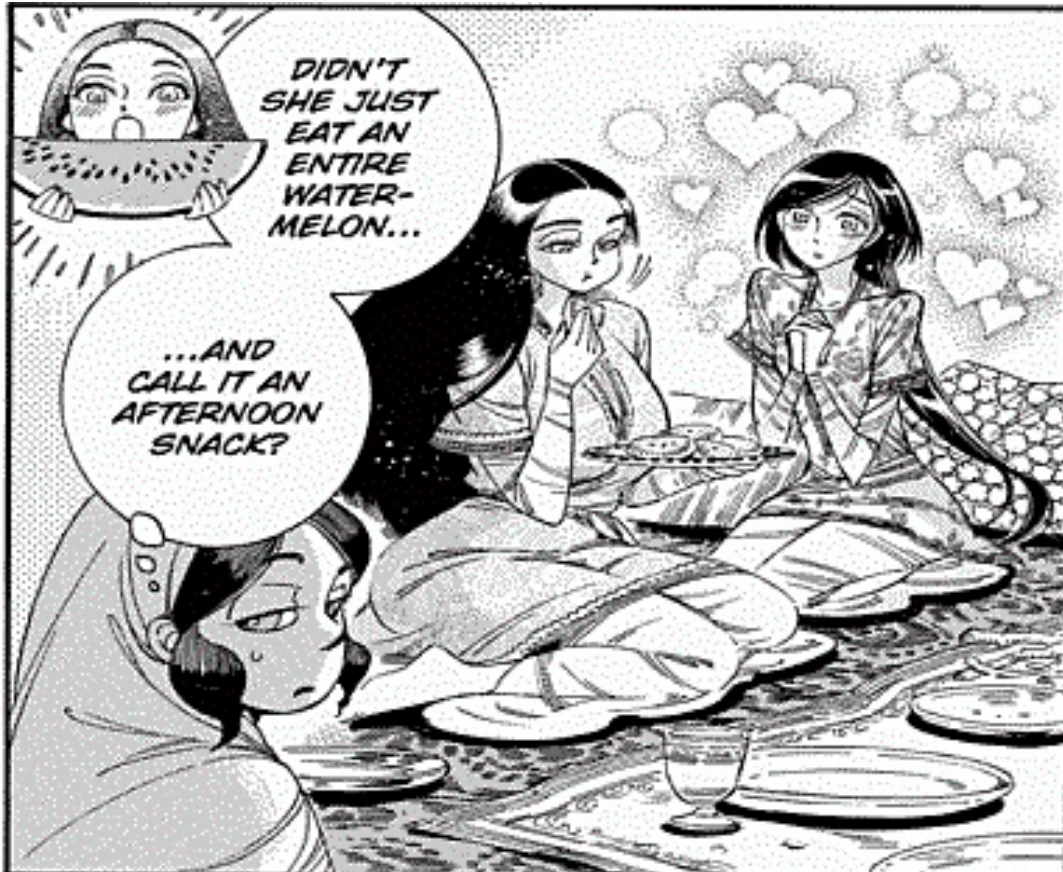
SHER-
INE...

WON'T
YOU HAVE
SOME
MORE?

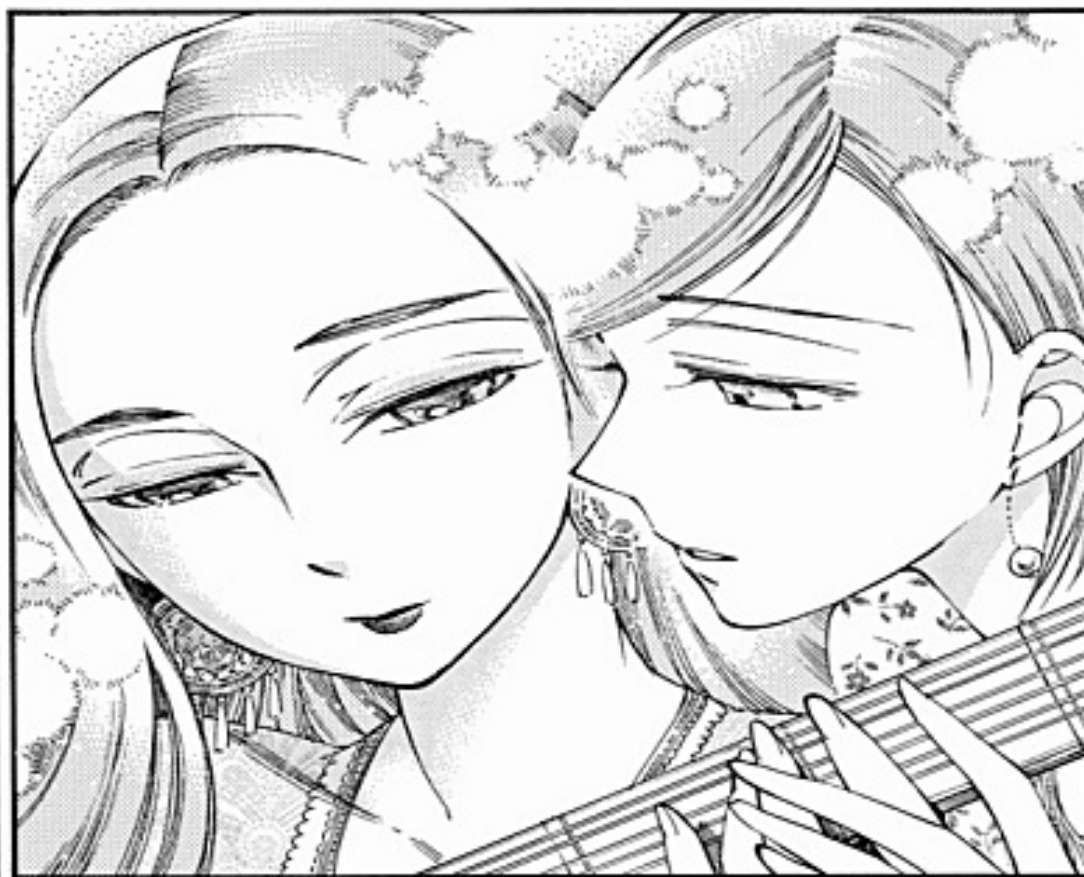
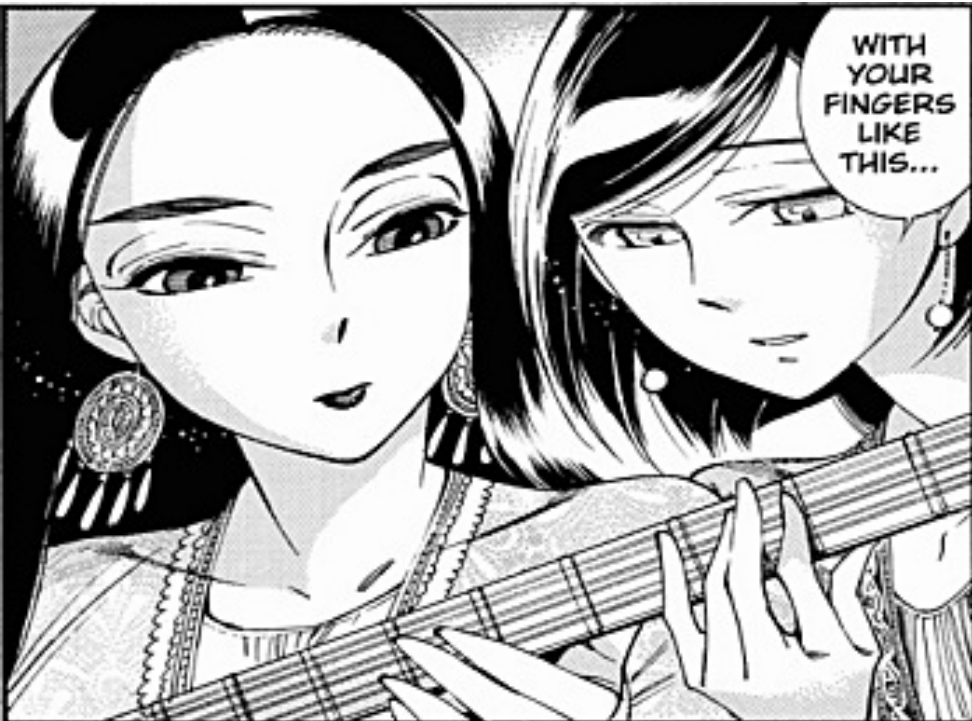


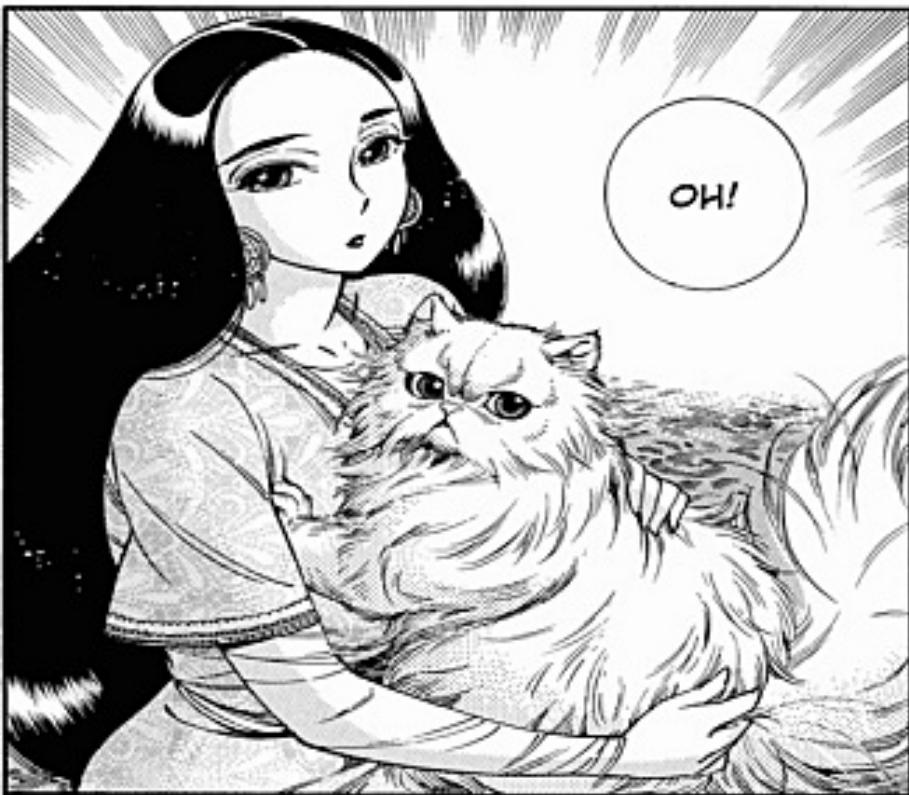
...ISN'T
THIS
YOURS?

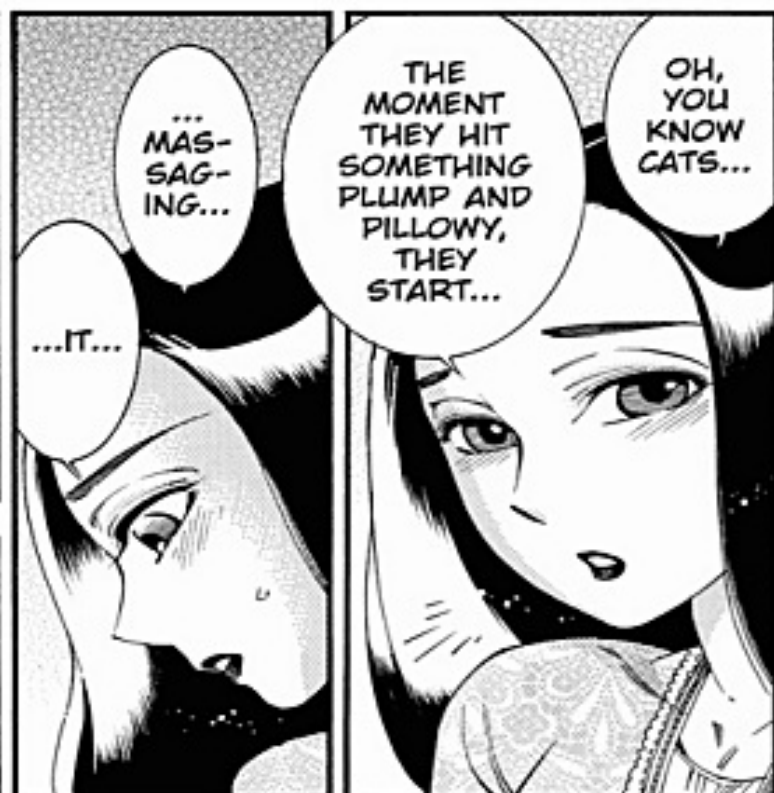






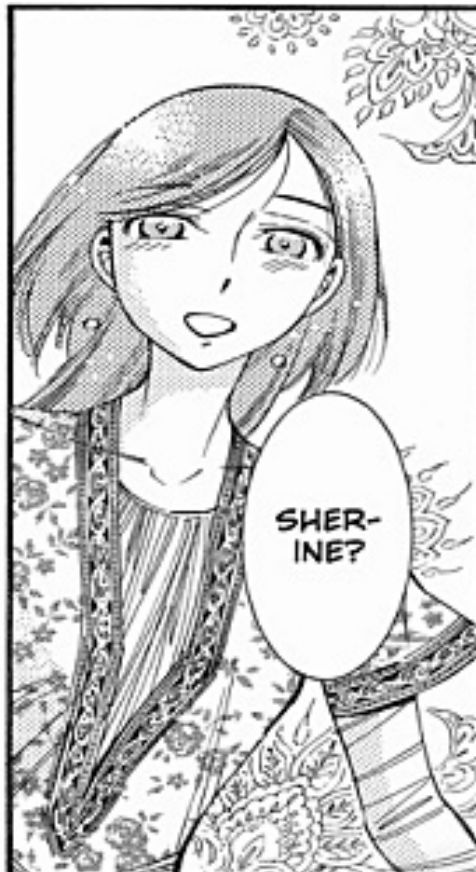




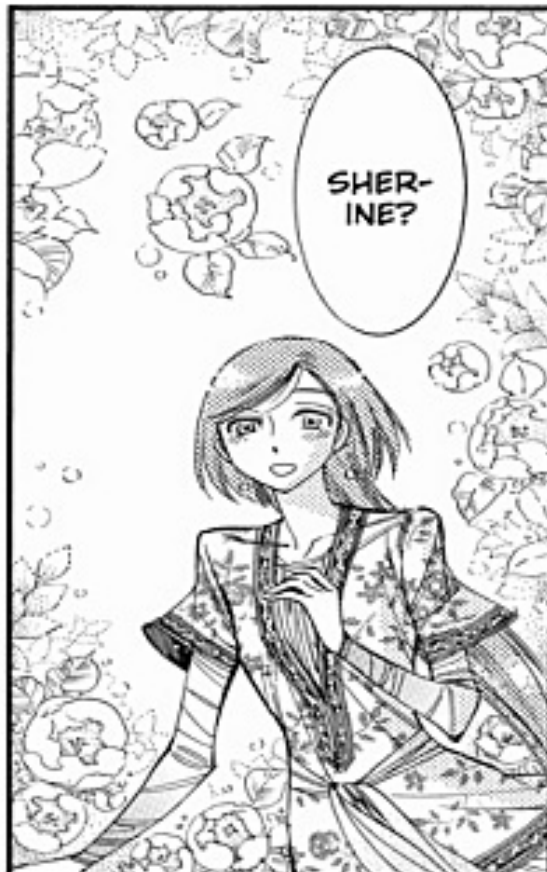




SHER-
INE!



SHER-
INE?



SHER-
INE?



OOPS!
COME TO
THINK OF
IT, YOU'RE
"THE
MISSUS"
TOO NOW,
HUH?



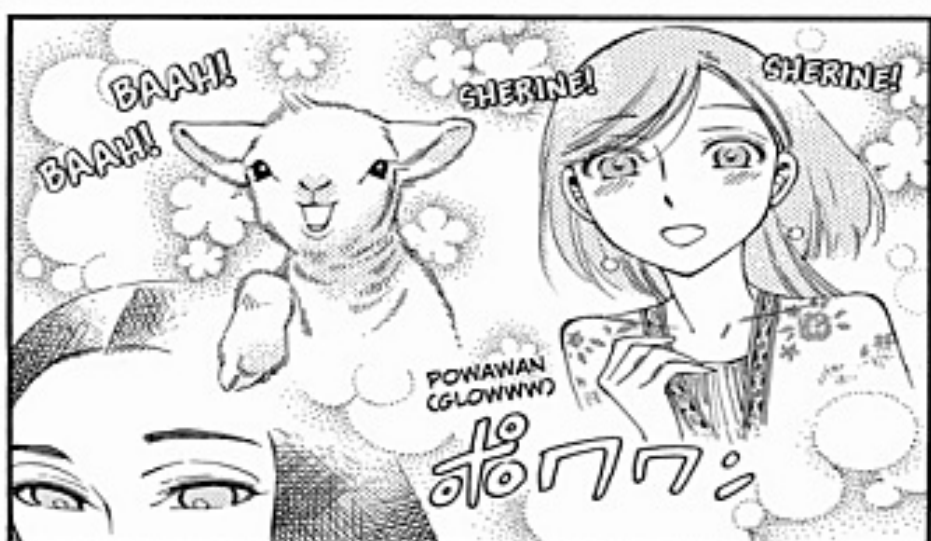
WHENEVER
YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
GET SOME
ALONE
TIME...

YOU
THINK
SO?

...I HEAR
THE MISSUS
GO ABOUT
CALLING,
"SHERINE!
SHERINE!"



YOU
GOT IT
ROUGH,
HUH,
SHER-
INE?



BAAH!
BAAH!

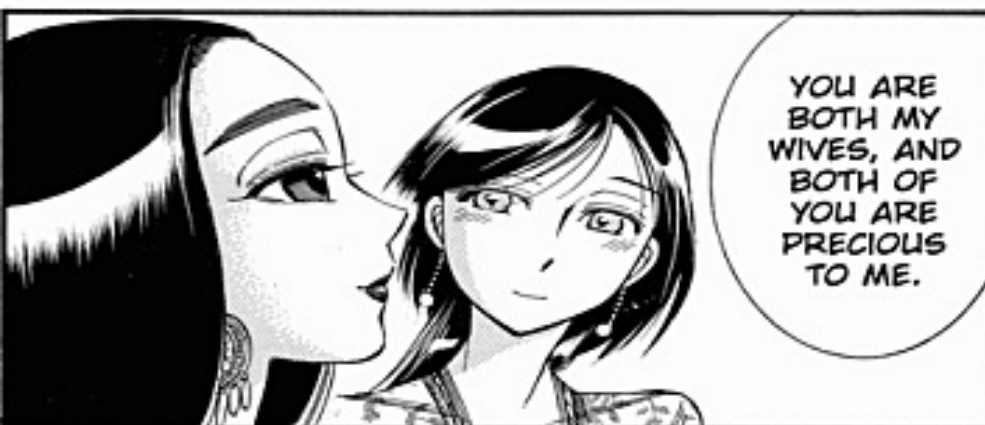
SHERINE!

SHERINE!

POWAWAN
(GLOWWWW)

カカカカ

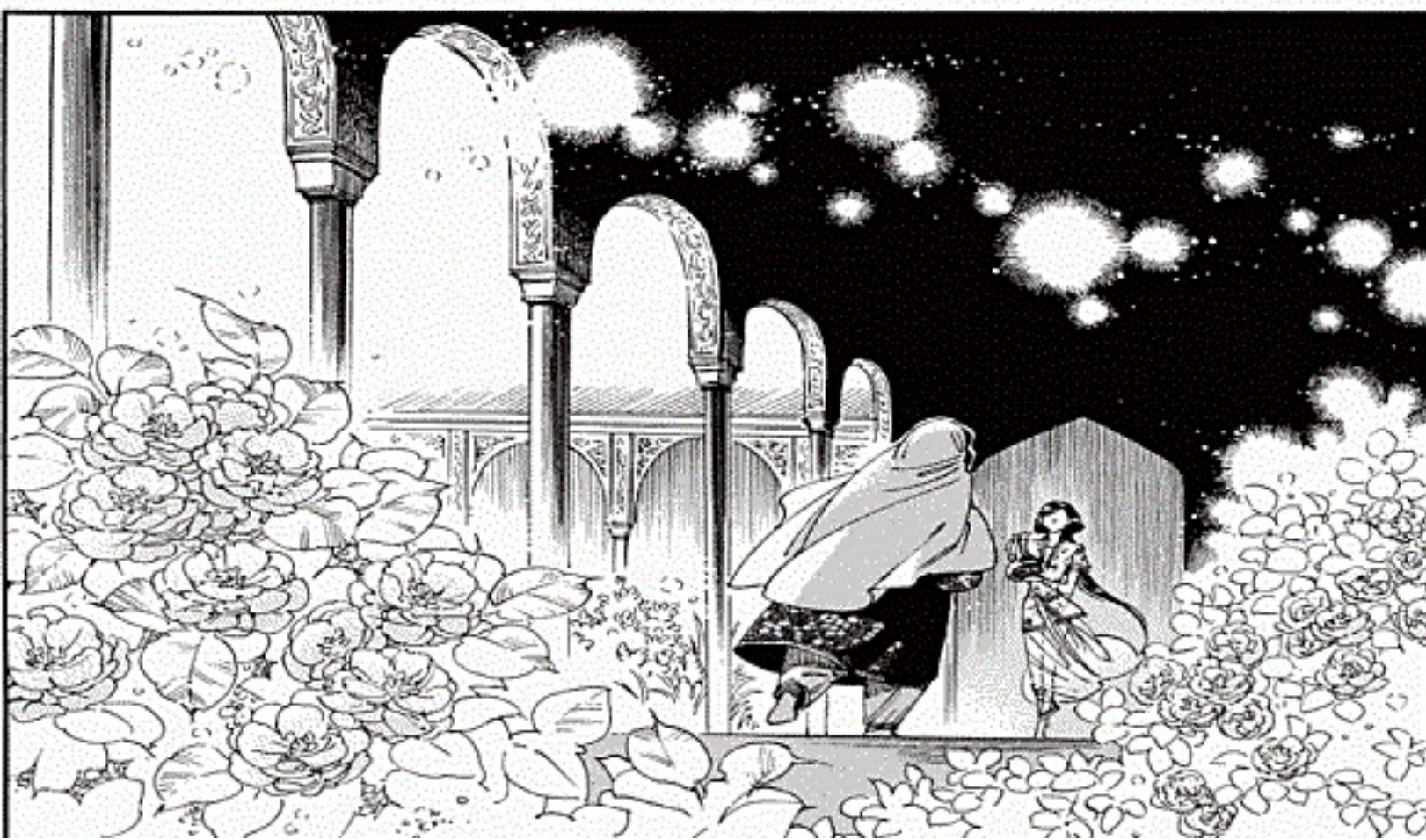
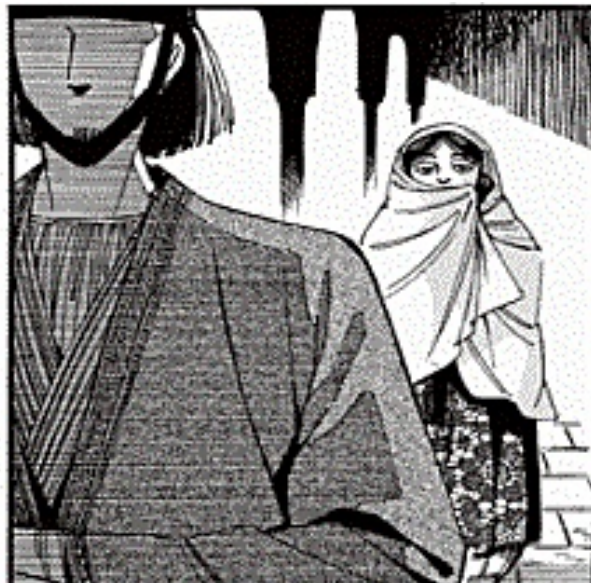




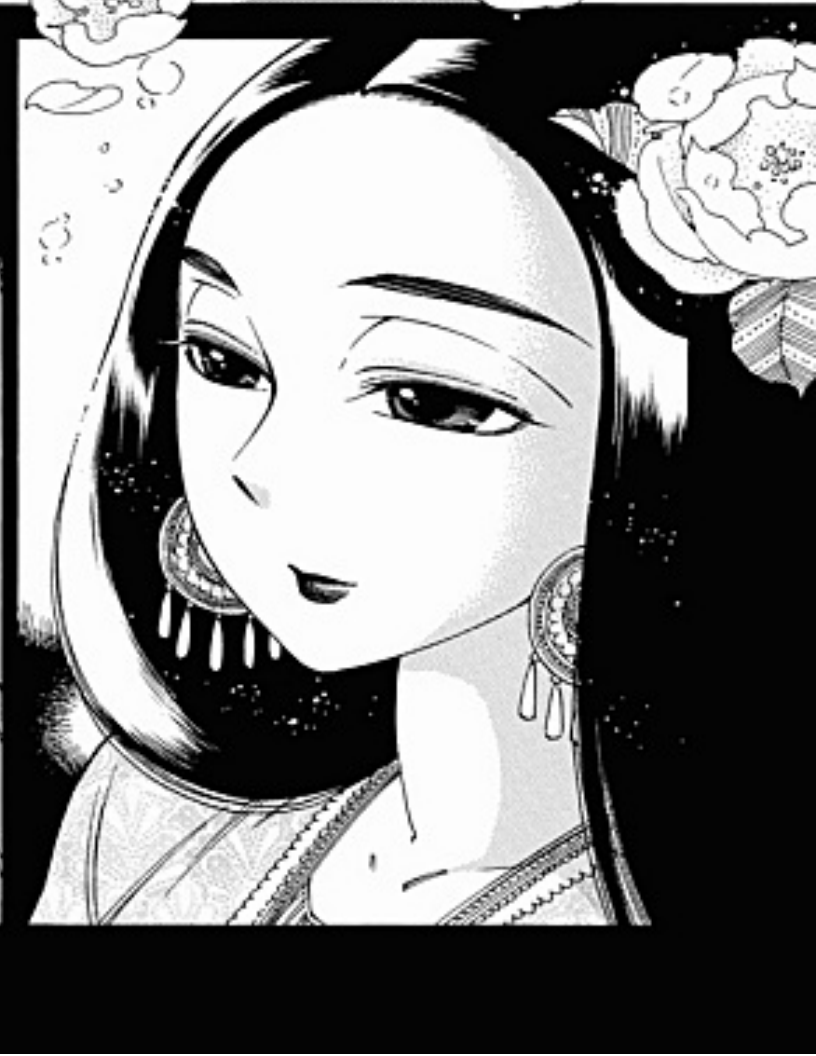




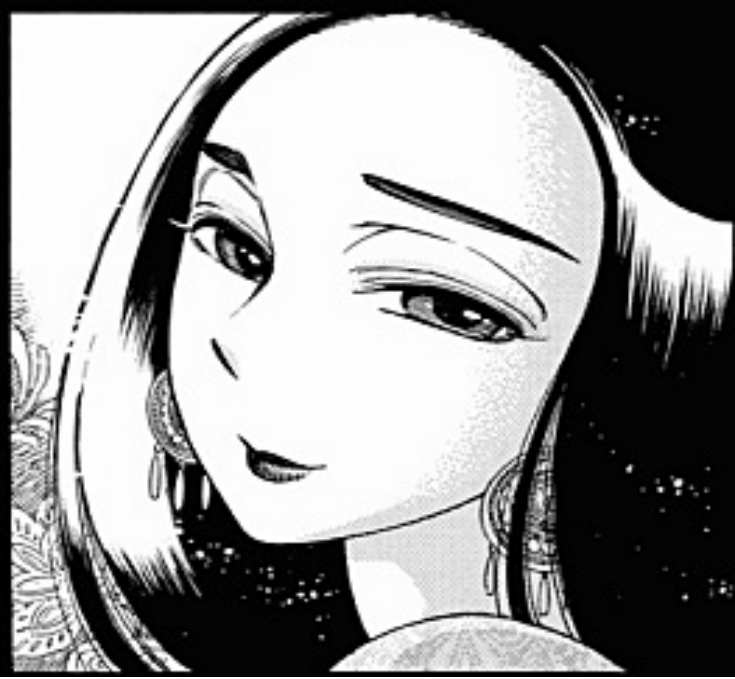
















AND
SO...

...JUST
KNOWING
THAT YOU
ARE THE MAN
I LOVE IS
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
FEELING!



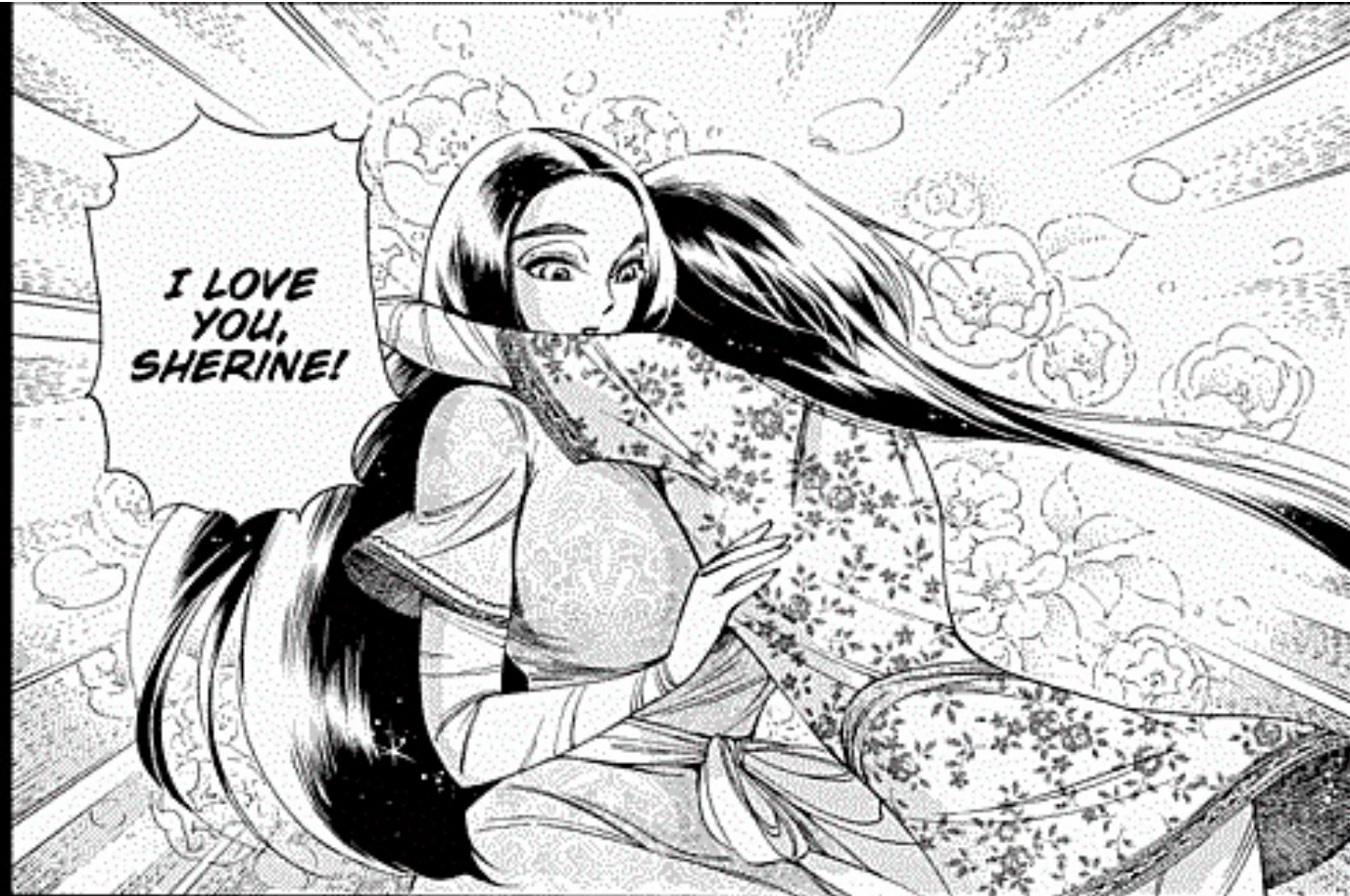
AND
I FEEL
THE SAME
FOR YOU,
ANIS.



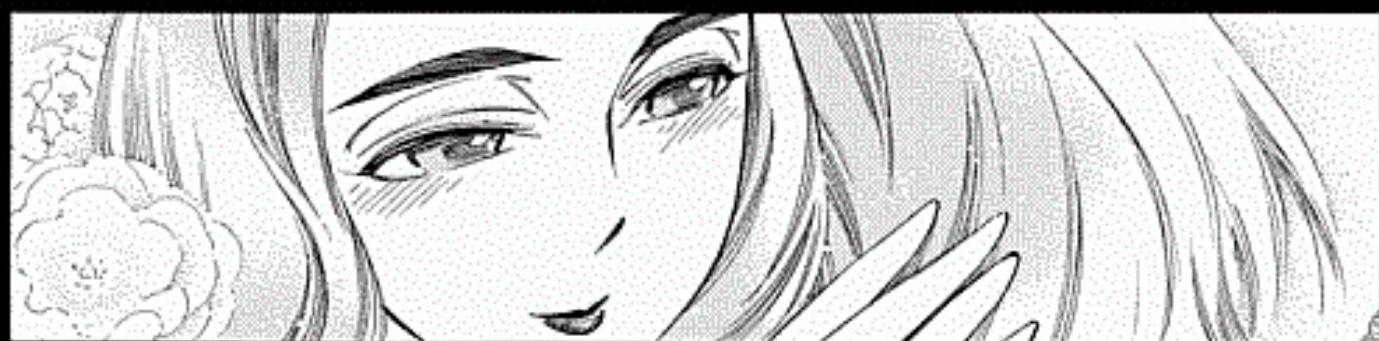
I
SEE.





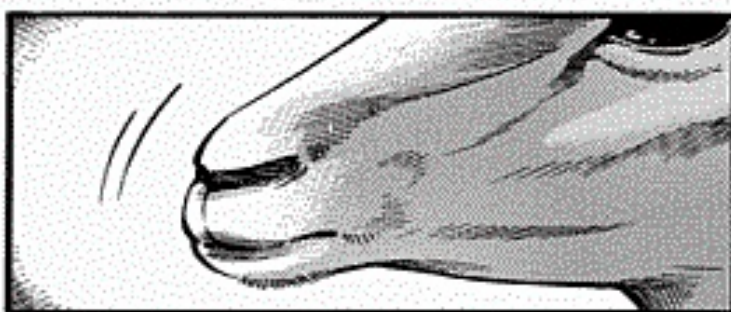
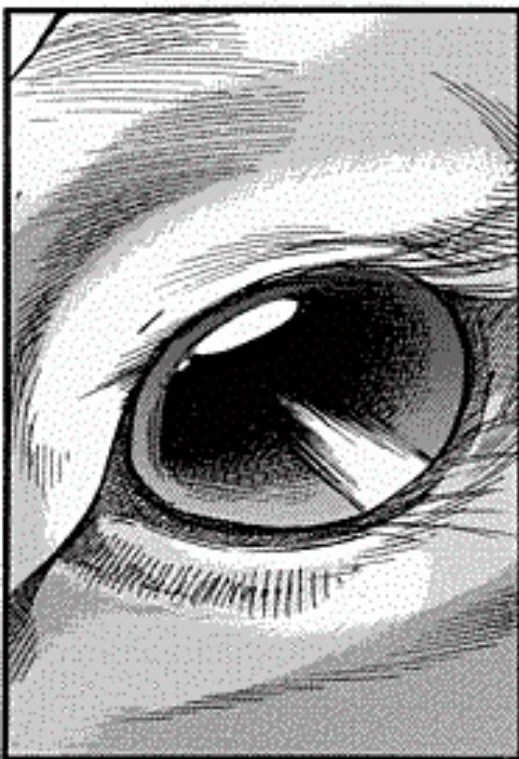
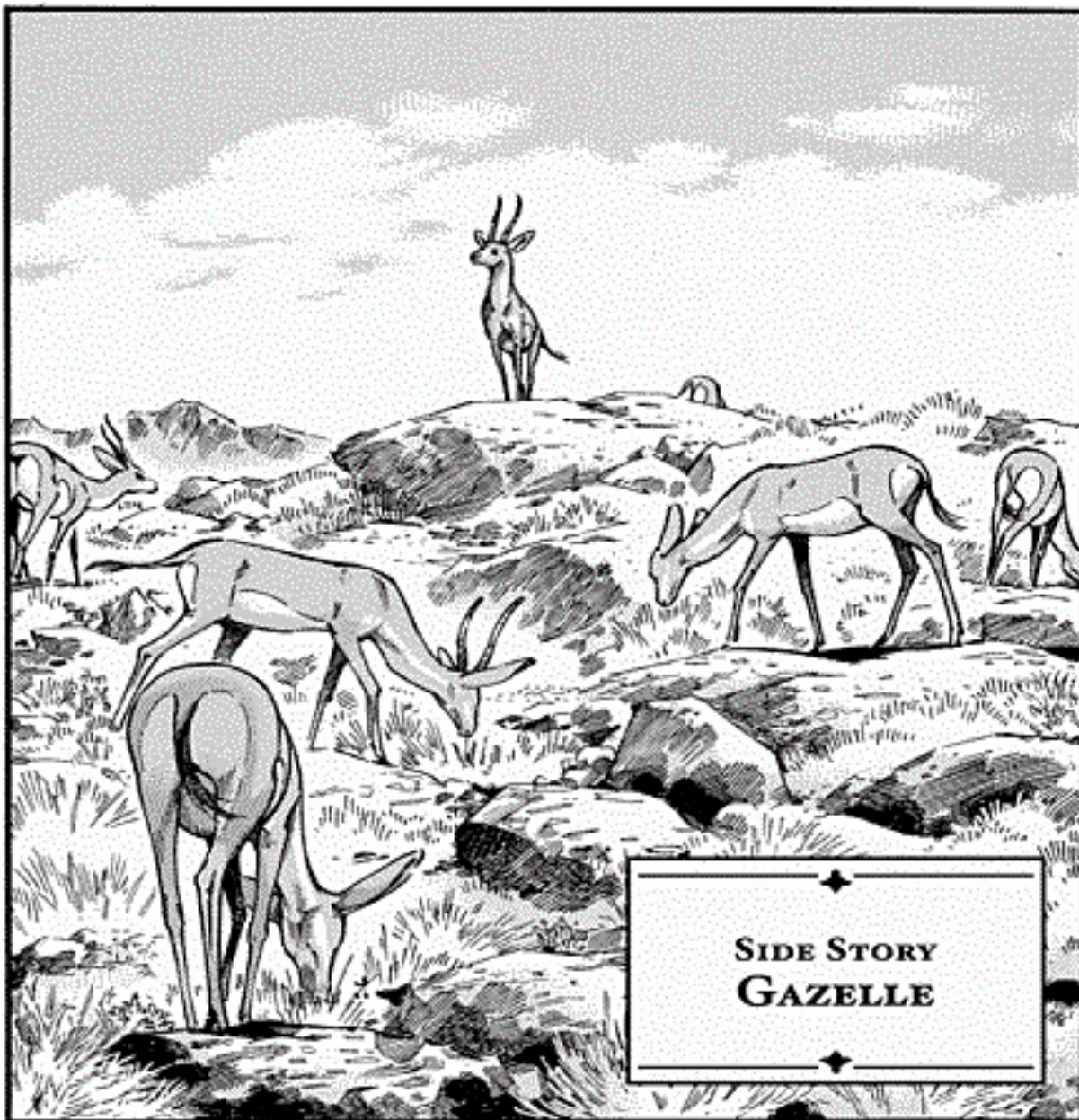


I LOVE
YOU,
SHERINE!

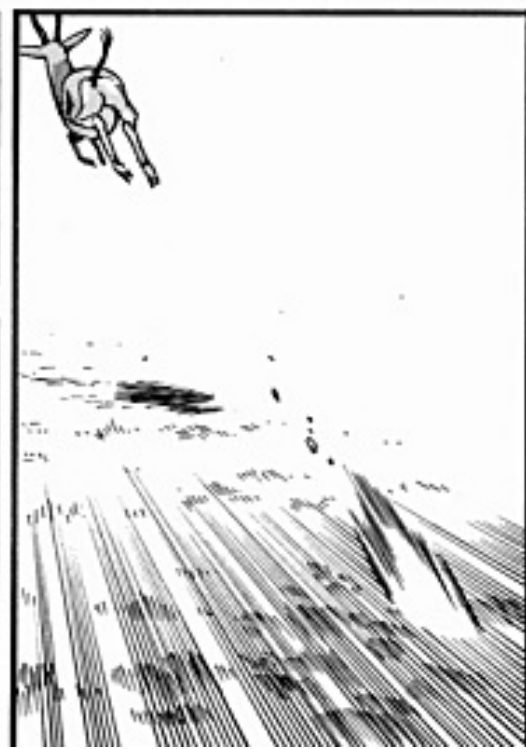


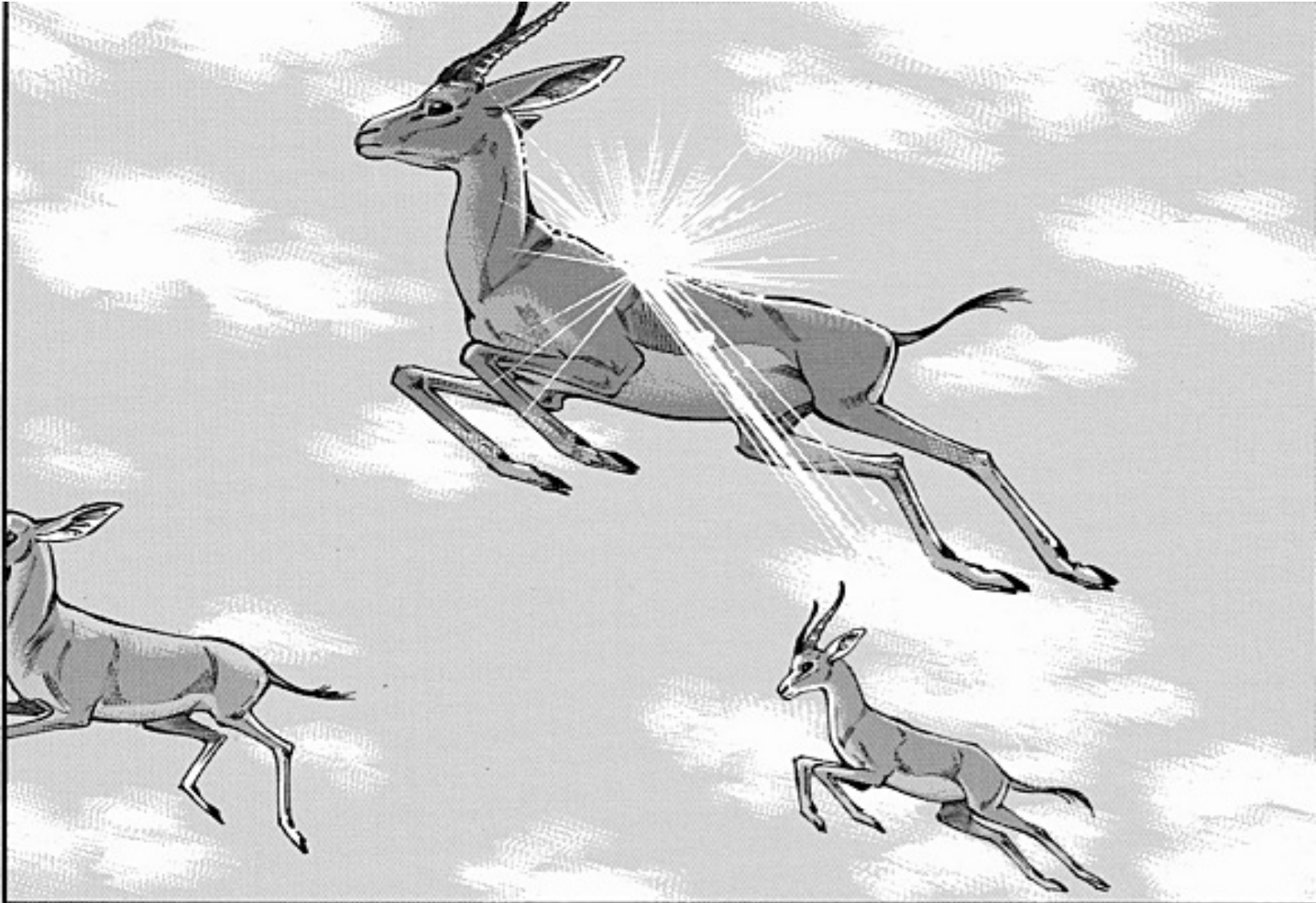
THAT
WAS WELL
DONE.

GOOD
GIRL.

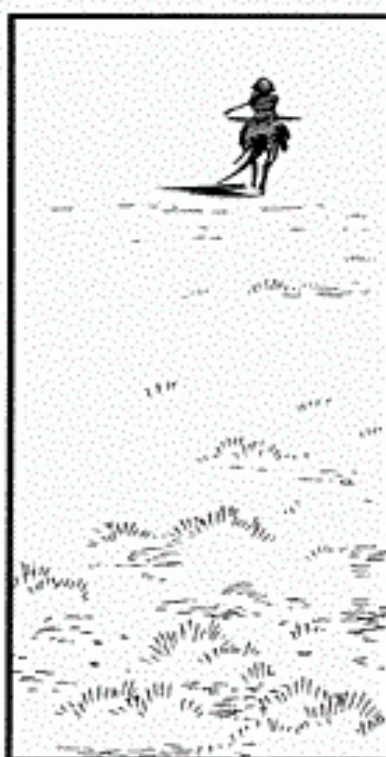
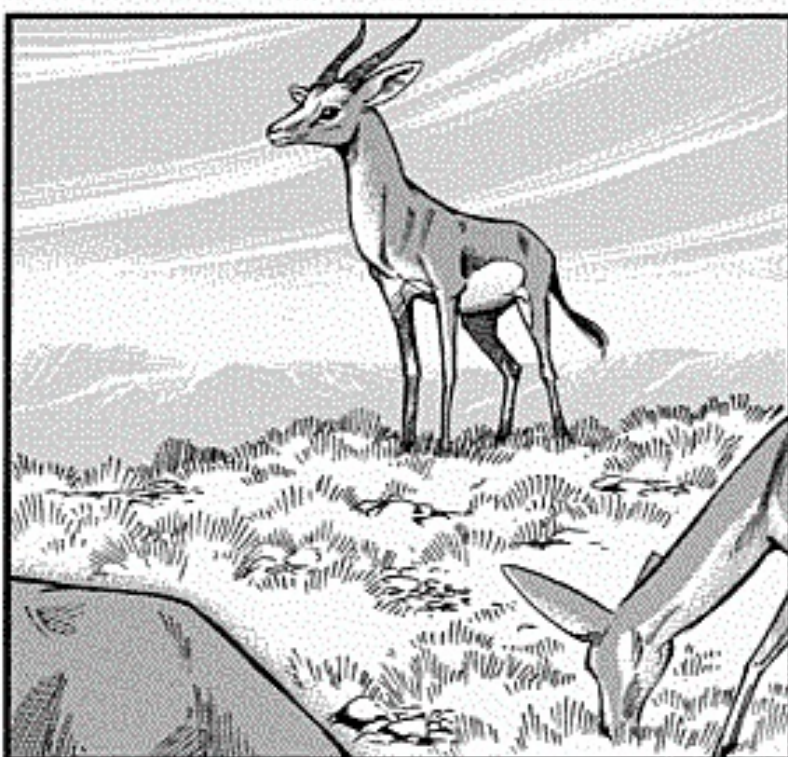
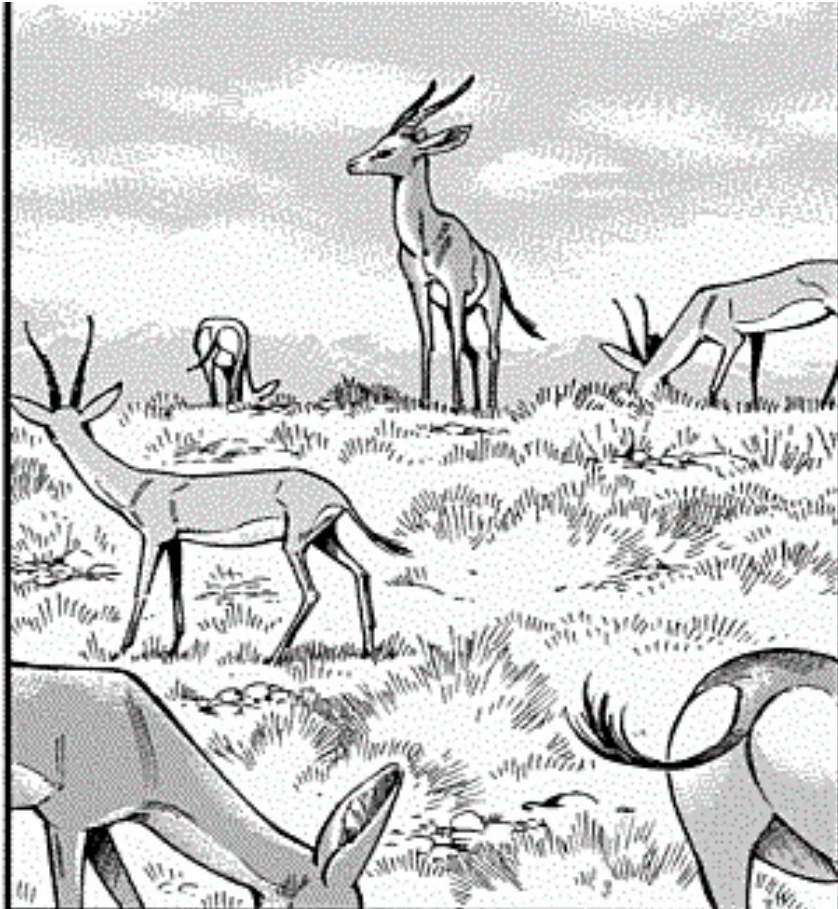
















PLEASE
COME
IN.



YOU CAN
USE THIS
ROOM.



ARE
THESE
ALL YOUR
THINGS?

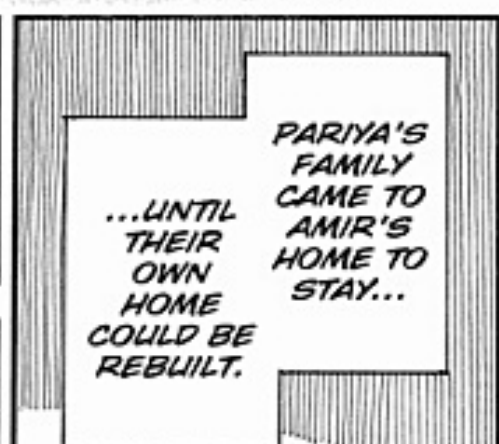


BUT YOU
MUSTN'T
LET IT
DISCOURAGE
YOU.

WE
HEARD ALL
ABOUT IT.

IT
MUST'VE
BEEN A
SHOCK.







◆
CHAPTER 45
PARIYA'S
NEEDLEWORK
◆





THE VERY
FIRST FRIEND
AMIR MADE
WHEN SHE
MARRIED
INTO A FAMILY
IN THIS
TOWN...

...WAS
PARIYA.



UN-
FORTU-
NATELY
...



PARIYA
WAS OF
AN AGE
TO BE
WED...

...SO THE
BIGGEST
QUESTION
ON HER
MIND WAS
WHO HER
FUTURE
HUSBAND
WOULD BE.



PARIYA
WAS
GETTING
ANXIOUS
...



AND A
MATCH
WAS
NEVER
FOUND.

HER
BRUSQUE
PERSON-
ALITY
PROVED
DISAS-
TROUS.



...BUT
THEN, VERY
RECENTLY,
PARIYA MET
SOMEONE
SHE MIGHT
LIKE.





...BUT
WE'LL HAVE
TO START
REBUILDING
HER DOWRY
FROM
SCRATCH.



THE
TALK WITH
THE BOY'S
FAMILY
DIDN'T GO
BADLY...



AND IT
WON'T BE
POSSIBLE
TO HOLD A
WEDDING IN
THIS TOWN
ANYTIME
SOON.



SO IT
LOOKS LIKE
THE CEREMONY
WILL HAVE TO
BE DELAYED
FOR QUITE A
WHILE.



IT'S
UNFORTUNATE,
BUT IT'S THE
FACT OF THE
SITUATION WE'RE
IN. I'M SURE
HE'LL WAIT.



I
SEE...

I SUP-
POSE IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED.



THOSE
ARE VERY
SPECIFIC
DISASTERS...

I UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL,
BUT YOU HAVE
TO STOP OVER-
THINKING THIS!

EVEN IF
WE FINALLY
SET A DAY
FOR THE
WEDDING...

...THE
GROOM WILL
GET COLD
FEET, OR THE
MUSICIANS
WILL TAKE A
WRONG TURN
AND NEVER
ARRIVE...

...THEN THE
FOOD WILL
GET COLD,
AND A NEIGH-
BOR'S MULE
WILL COME
IN AND KICK
OVER ALL THE
DECORATIONS!
IT'S SURE TO
HAPPEN!!

WE'LL FIND
SOMEONE
WHO ISN'T
BUSY AND
ASK HER
TO HELP.

THIS
ISN'T
YOUR
FAULT,
PARIYA.

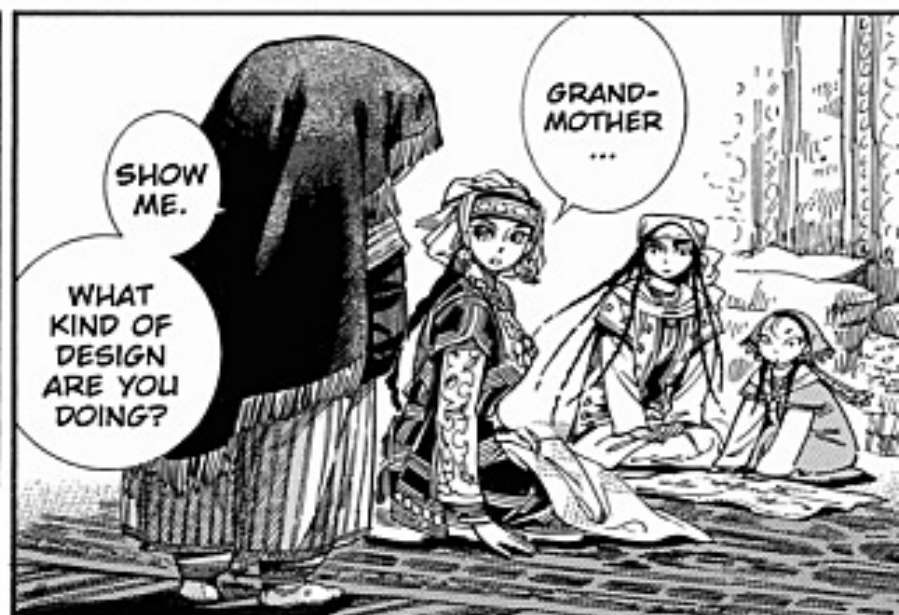
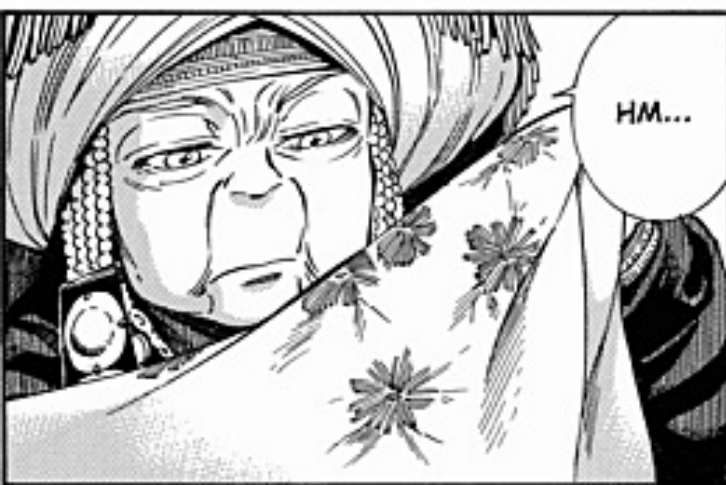
IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
HE'LL
WAIT FOR
YOU.

TILEKE
IS VERY
GOOD AT
SEWING.

URR!

.....







WE MAKE CERAMICS, YOU KNOW?



.....



HE WAS TEACHING HER TO SHAPE CLAY LONG BEFORE SHE EVER HELD A NEEDLE AND THREAD. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE.



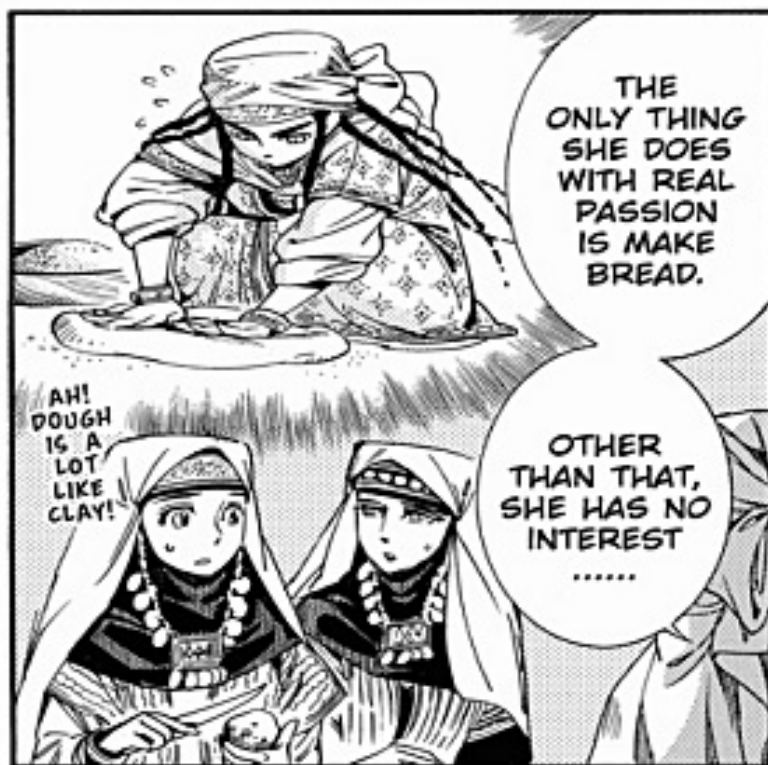
IT MADE MY HUSBAND SO HAPPY, I COULDN'T PREVENT IT.



HMM, LET'S SEE...



LISTEN, PARIYA...

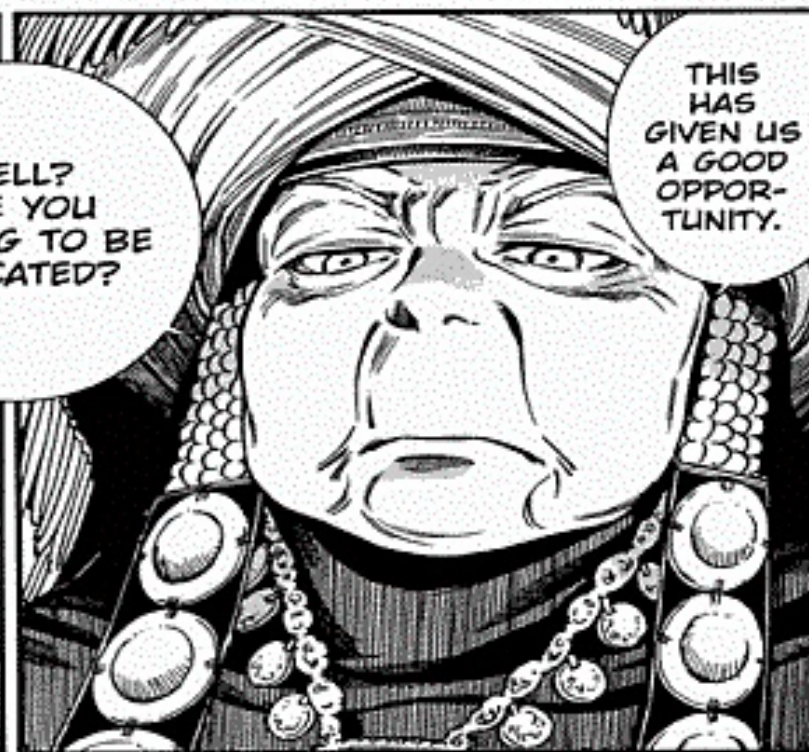


THE ONLY THING SHE DOES WITH REAL PASSION IS MAKE BREAD.

AH! DOUGH IS A LOT LIKE CLAY!

OTHER THAN THAT, SHE HAS NO INTEREST

.....





TORKAN!

SCATTER IT
A LITTLE AT
A TIME.



WE'LL BE
MAKING
LUNCH TO
BRING TO
THOSE
FAMILIES
AFFECTED.



RIGHT!



OKAY,
I'M OFF.



ALL OF
THEM
NEED
TO GET
SOME!



I HEAR
THERE
ARE STILL
HORSES
DOWN
BY THE
RIVER
TOO.

I SUPPOSE
I'LL HAVE
TO TRY
SOMEPLACE
ELSE.



WE'RE
COM-
PLETELY
FULL.

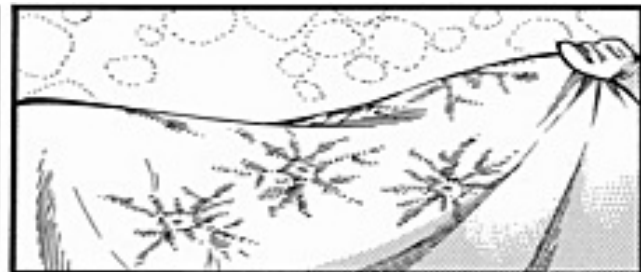
WE'RE
EVEN
USING
THE
GARDENS.

IS
THAT
SO?



KARLUK!

DO YOU
STILL HAVE
AN OPEN
STALL?



HASTY,
WITH NO
PATIENCE
TO SPEAK
OF.

YOU
MISTAKE
RAPIDITY
FOR
SKILL.

YOUR
WORK
IS INCON-
SISTENT.



YOU'RE
THAT
TYPE,
EH?



WITH
CARE...?



...MAKING
SURE THEY
LINE UP
AND ARE
ALL OF
THE SAME
LENGTH.

FOR
STARTERS,
YOU MUST
DO EACH
AND EVERY
STITCH WITH
CARE...



THAT'S
EXACTLY
HOW
I AM!

THAT'S
...!



NOTHING
I DO
GOES
RIGHT!
I NEED
HELP!
WHAT
CAN I
DO!?



ONCE
YOU BECOME A
MOTHER, YOU WILL
BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR EVERYTHING
YOUR FAMILY
WEARS...



...SO SEW
EACH PIECE
AS IF YOUR
CHILDREN
WERE GOING
TO WEAR IT.



WHAT'S
MORE, IF
YOU HATE
WHAT YOU
DO, YOU'LL
NEVER
IMPROVE.



WHAT?
YOU CAN'T
IMAGINE
THAT?



CHILDREN...



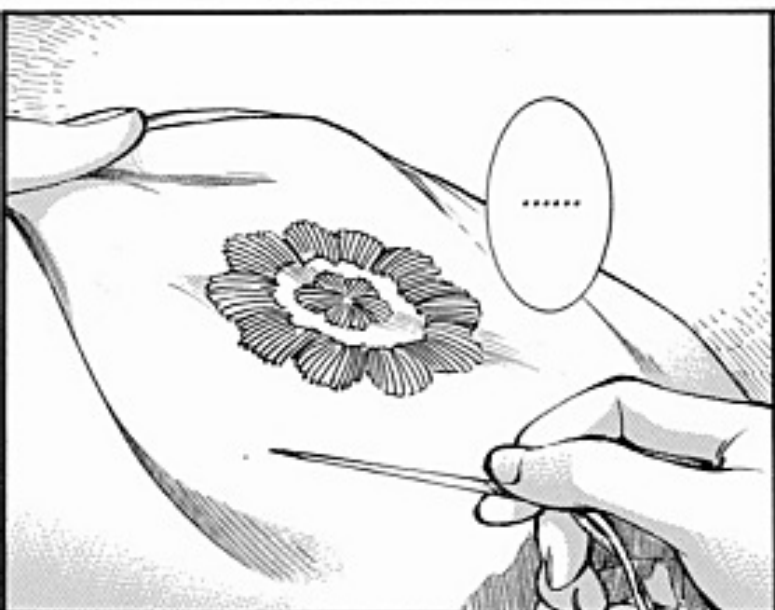
DO THAT,
AND YOU'LL
IMPROVE.



ALL RIGHT,
THINK OF
SOMEONE YOU
CARE ABOUT
WHEN YOU
SEW.



I THINK
OF HAWKS
WHEN I DO
NEEDLE-
WORK.











WE DIDN'T
DO MUCH OF
ANYTHING.

THE ONE
WHO DID THE
WORK WAS
THE GIRL
HERSELF.



AFTER
WE'VE ALREADY
BEEN SUCH A
BURDEN ON YOU,
FOR YOU TO
SPEND SO MUCH
EFFORT HELPING
PARIYA...

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
I CAN EVER
THANK
YOU...

WAIT!
MOTHER!
THAT'S
WAY OVER-
BOARD!



THEN
WHO DID
YOU HAVE IN
MIND WHEN
YOU MADE
THIS?



REALLY...?

WITH
SOMEONE
IN MIND?



ACTUALLY,
ALL I DID
WAS TELL
HER TO
SEW IT WITH
SOMEONE
IN MIND.



IT'S
KIND OF
LIKE...

HOW
TO PUT
IT...

NOT
ANYONE
SPECIFI-
CALLY...



UM...

IT
ISN'T AS
IF I HAD
ANYONE IN
PARTICU-
LAR...



WHY ARE
YOU JUST
STANDING
THERE?

THE
HERD IS
SCATTER-
ING...



HEY!
UMAR!



I HEAR
IT'S BEEN
DELAYED.
HOW LONG?

WELL,
YEAH.

HMM?
YOU'VE
STILL
GOT THAT
BUSINESS
ON YOUR
MIND?



WHAT
CAN WE DO?
WITH THE
SITUATION
AS IT IS...



MMM...



STOP TRYING TO RUSH IT.



THESE THINGS ALWAYS TAKE TIME.

BUT EVEN UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, THERE'S STILL A LOT TO TALK OVER.



LET'S GO!

SURE!

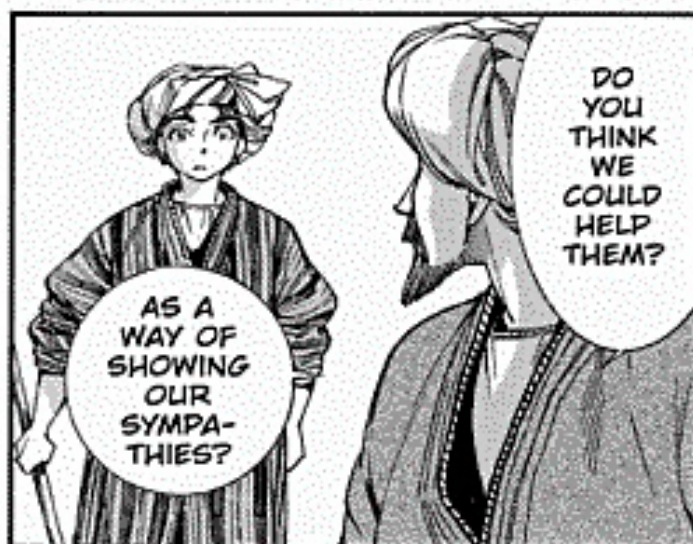


I HEAR THEY COULD USE A LOT OF HELP.

...IT SEEMS THEY WERE HIT PRETTY HARD.

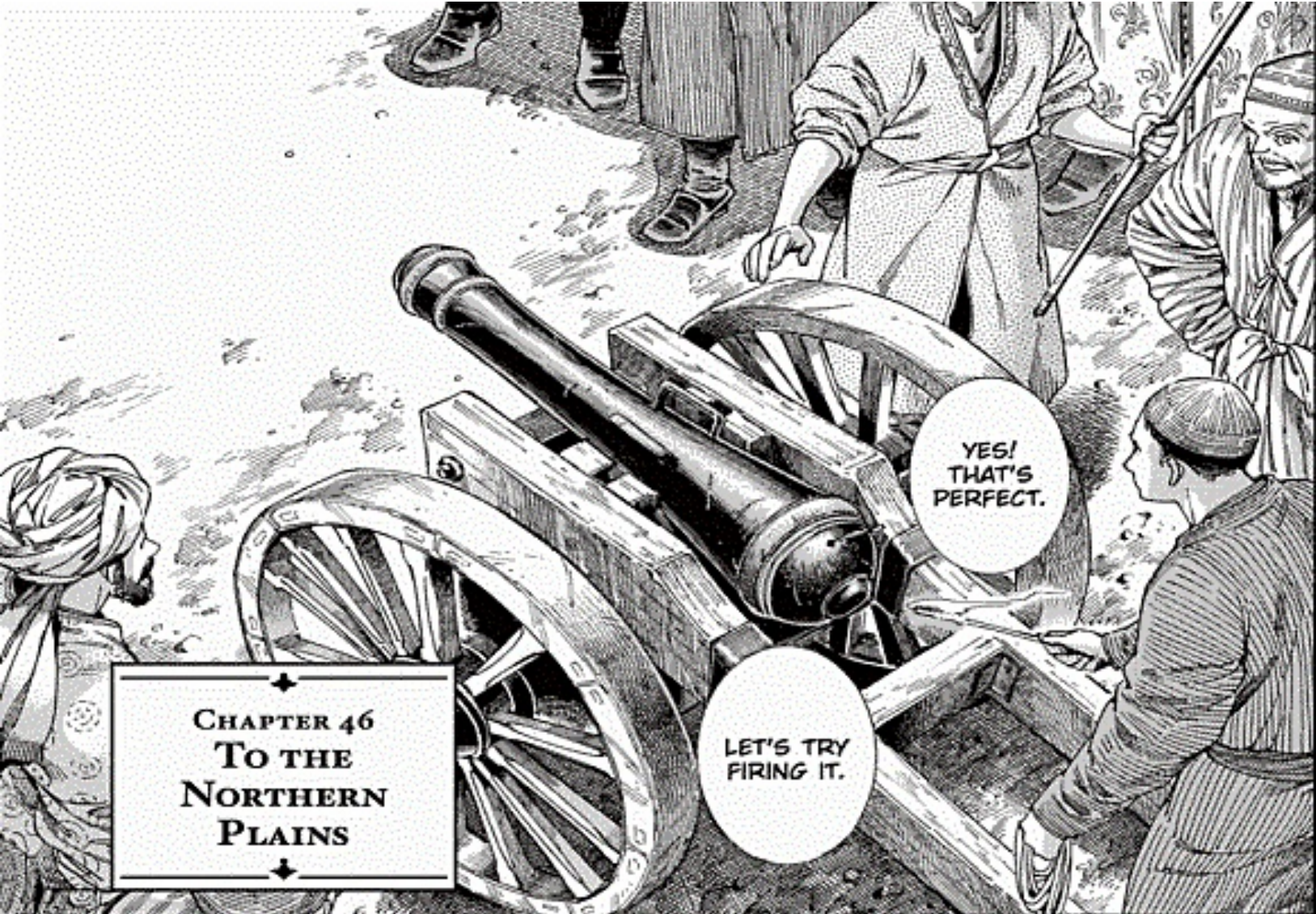


.....BUT EVEN SO...



AS A WAY OF SHOWING OUR SYMPATHIES?

DO YOU THINK WE COULD HELP THEM?







I'M
STILL
SLEEPY.



NOBODY
ELSE
SEEMS
TO BE
USING
IT.



PERSON-
ALLY, I'M
SURPRISED
WE HAVE
THIS MUCH
GRAZING
GROUND
LEFT.



I
COULDN'T
STAY
THERE.

DON'T
EVEN
JOKE
ABOUT
THAT.



NO ONE
FORCED
YOU TO
COME.

YOU
COULD
HAVE
STAYED
AT THE
CAMP...



YOU KNOW
HOW WHINY
AND BORING
THOSE OLD
GEEZERS ARE.
TO HEAR THAT
DAY
AFTER DAY...



APART
FROM US,
NOBODY
WOULD BE
HERE.

WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT?
EVERYBODY
KNOWS THAT
RUSSIA WILL
ATTACK THIS
PLACE ANY-
TIME NOW.



I SUP-
POSE
SO.

IT'S
RATHER LIKE
WE'VE BEEN
ASSIGNED
BORDER
PATROL.



.....
AT LEAST
WE'LL BE
ABLE TO
SURVIVE
THIS
WINTER.



WITH THE
BATTLE
LOST
AND HIS
FATHER
DEAD...

...AZEL
INHERITED
THE CLAN
LEADER-
SHIP.



THERE
WAS NOT
A SINGLE
DISSENTING
VOICE.



HERE.

EAT IT.





WE NEVER
KNOW WHEN
FOOD WILL
RUN OUT.

YOU'D
BETTER
FATTEN UP
WHILE YOU
CAN.



ALSO
SOME NEW
GROUNDS
WHERE WE
CAN SET UP
WINTER
CAMP.



FIND
SOME-
PLACE,
BAIMAT.

BARGAIN
WITH THEM
DIRECTLY.



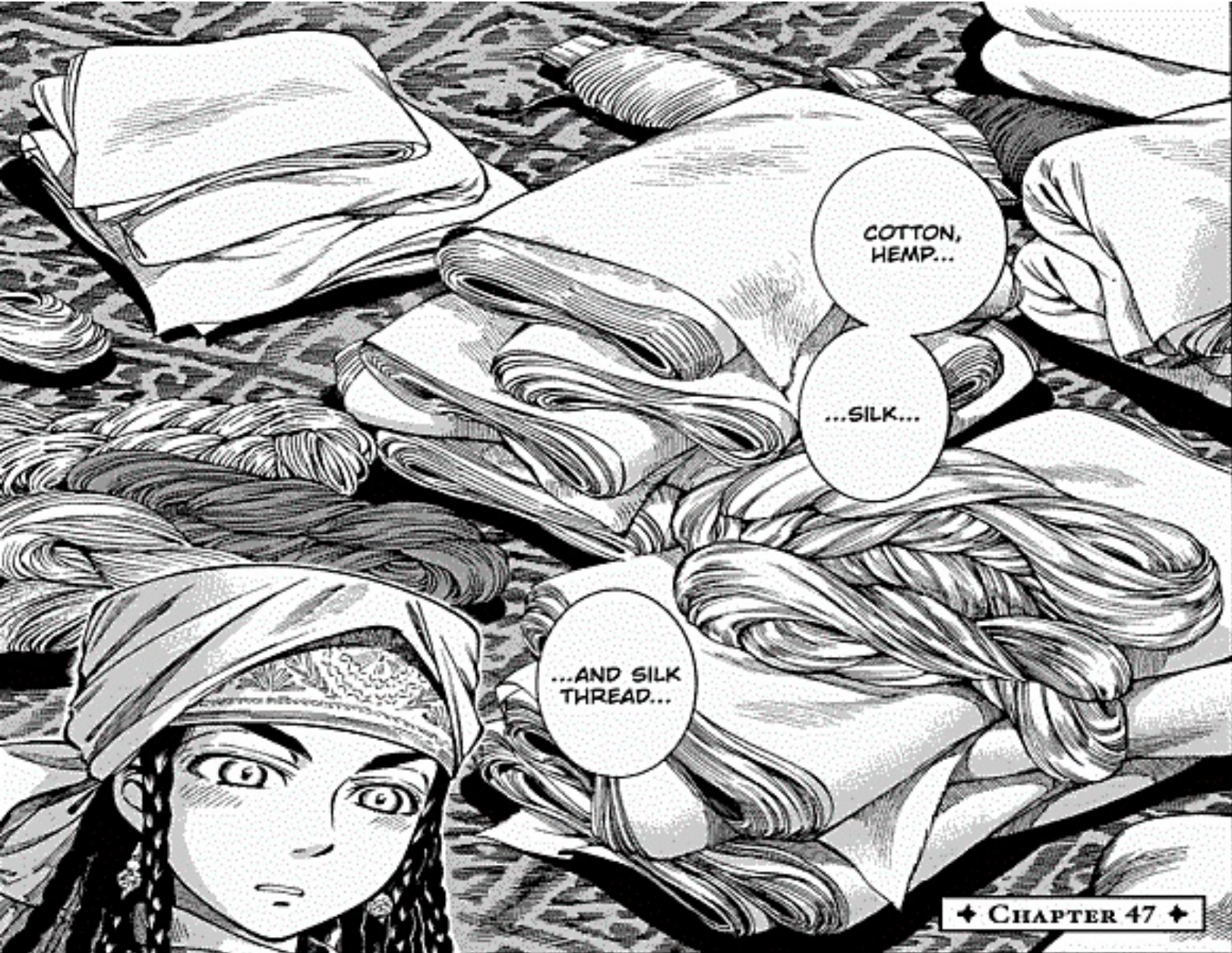
I
GET THE
FEELING
WE'LL GET
COMPLAINTS
FROM THE
LOCALS.



WE NEED
A NEW
WELL.







COTTON,
HEMP...

...SILK...

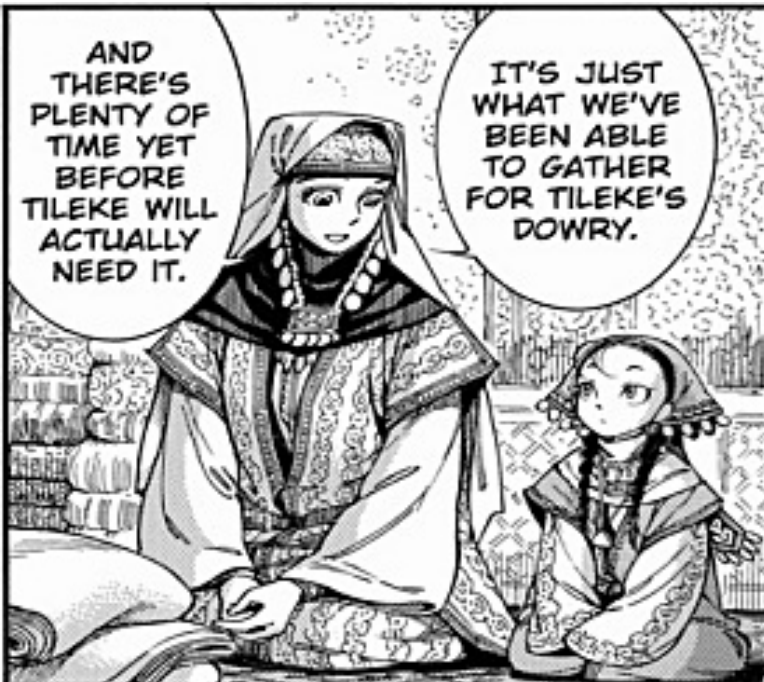
...AND SILK
THREAD...

◆ CHAPTER 47 ◆



THAT
SHOULD BE
ENOUGH FOR
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED.

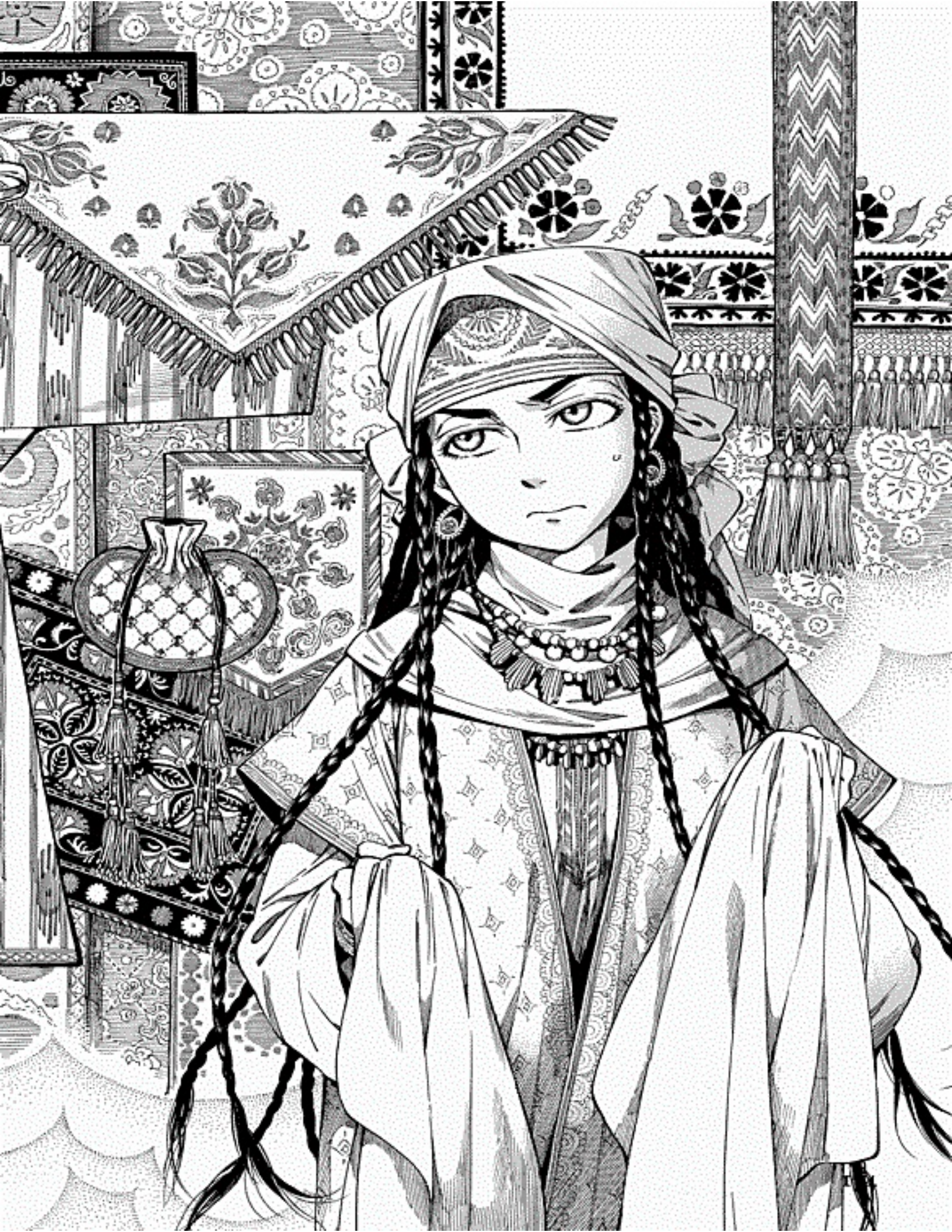






CHAPTER 47
THE COMB
HOLDER





IT'S A LONG TRADITION, AND WITHOUT A COMPLETE SET OF EMBROIDERED CLOTH, A GIRL IS NOT CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE TO BE MARRIED.

SHE STARTS DOING EMBROIDERY WORK LONG BEFORE SHE COMES OF MARRIAGE-ABLE AGE.

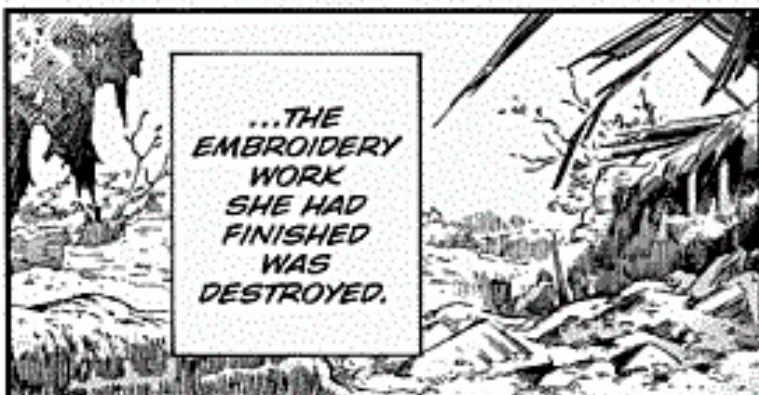


...SHE BRINGS WITH HER A LARGE QUANTITY OF EMBROIDERED TEXTILES FOR DAILY USE.

WHEN A BRIDE TAKES A HUSBAND...



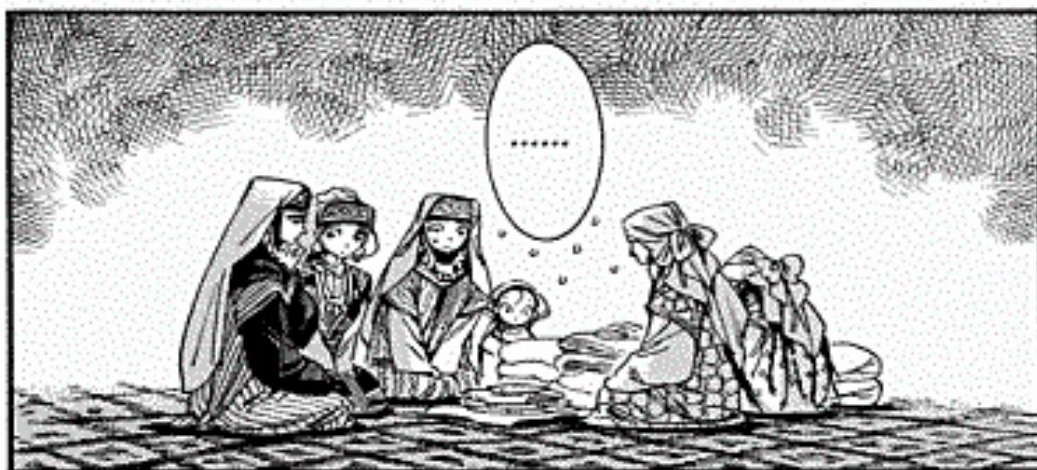
...THE EMBROIDERY WORK SHE HAD FINISHED WAS DESTROYED.



BUT BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE TO THEIR HOUSE IN THE RECENT ATTACK...

BUT IT NEVER GOT VERY FAR.

NATURALLY PARIYA ALSO DID THIS.



WE'LL HAVE TO START EVERYTHING ELSE FROM SCRATCH.

THE ONLY ONE THAT SURVIVED WAS THIS.



...BUT I DON'T WANT TO DELAY THE WEDDING FOR TOO LONG.

I'D LIKE TO REMAKE AS MUCH AS WE CAN...

HOW MUCH DO YOU PLAN ON REMAKING?



MAKES
SENSE.

.....I
SUPPOSE
THAT'S
ABOUT
THE LEAST
A GIRL
WOULD
WANT.

BUT IT
SOUNDS
LIKE IT WILL
TAKE QUITE
A LOT OF
TIME.

.....



ABOUT
FORTY
DIFFERENT
TYPES,
SO A TOTAL
OF ABOUT A
HUNDRED
...?

.....

I COULD
SEE IT
TAKING
EVEN
LONGER.

RUSHING
THROUGH
THEM,
PERHAPS
THREE OR
FOUR
YEARS.

DON'T
YOU WANT
EVERYONE
TO THINK
YOU'RE
A GOOD
BRIDE?

I'D
RATHER YOU
NOT HAVE
ANY PAINFUL
MEMORIES
OF THAT
DAY.

BUT
AT YOUR
WEDDING,
EVERYONE
WILL SEE
IT!



EVEN SO,
LOOKING AT
WHAT PARIYA
EMBROIDERED
BEFORE...



OH,
COME ON!
MOTHER!?

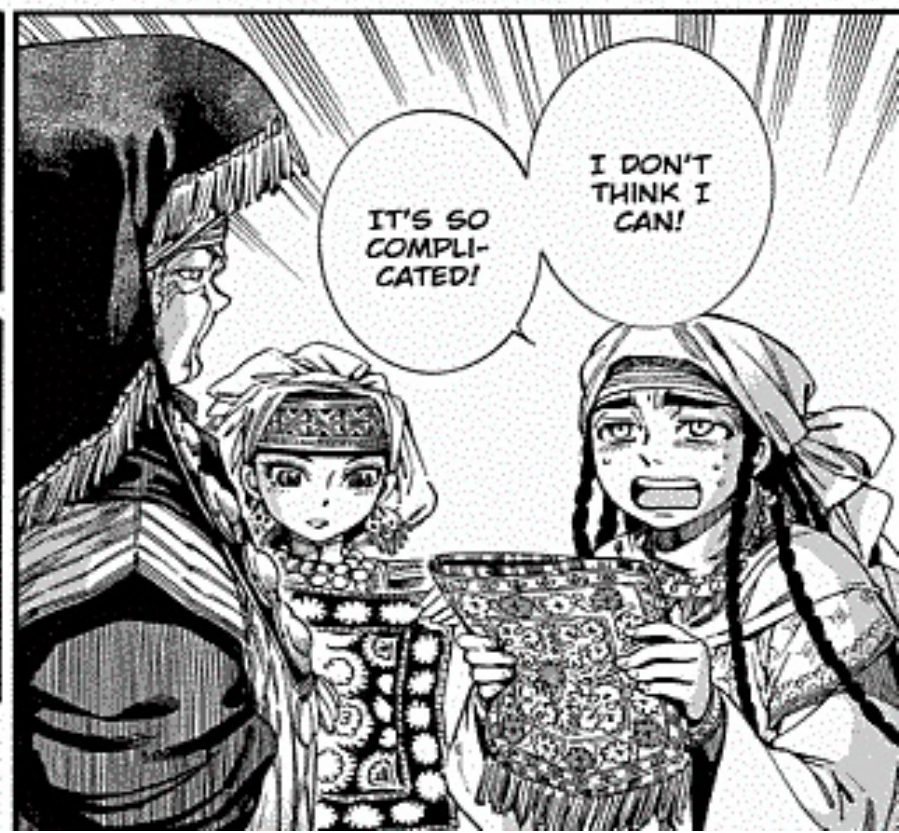
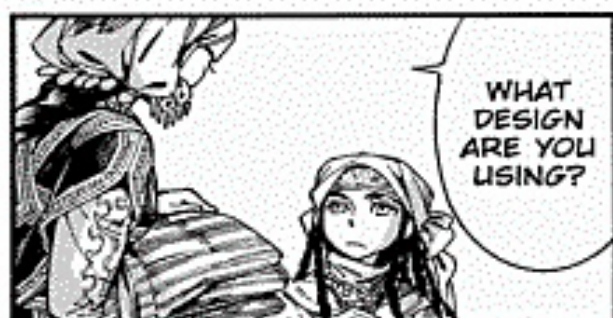
AFTER I
PUT SO MUCH
WORK INTO
THAT!?

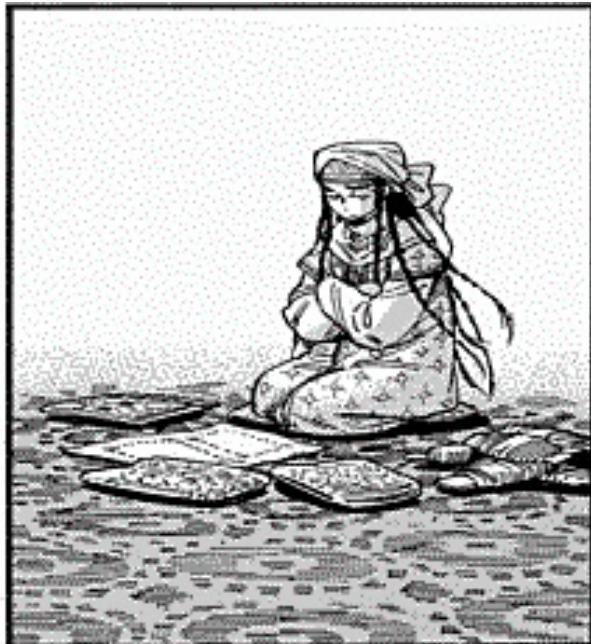
NOW
THAT SHE
CAN DO
BETTER...

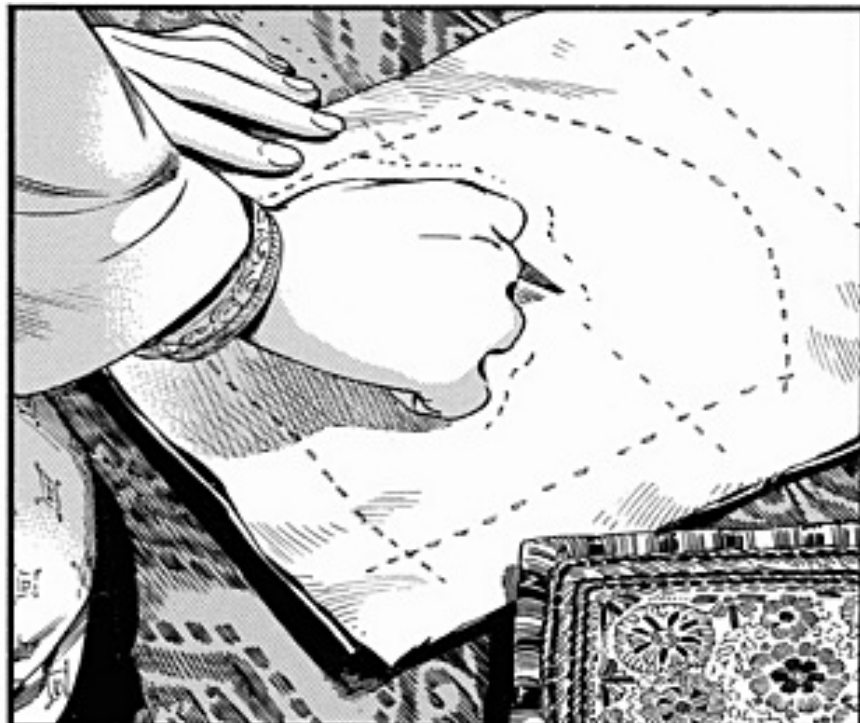
...I
THINK IT'S
GOOD THAT
SHE HAS
A CHANCE
TO DO IT
OVER.....

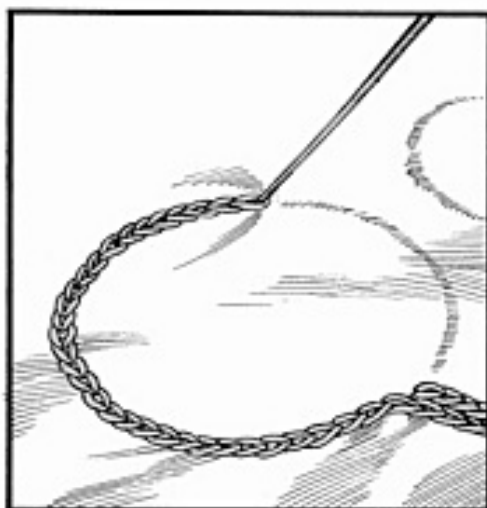


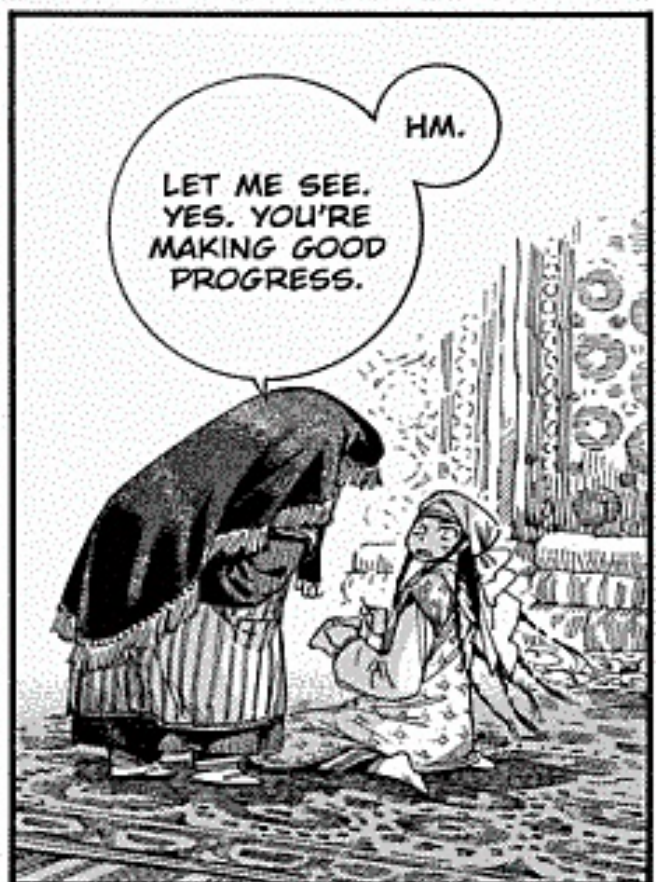
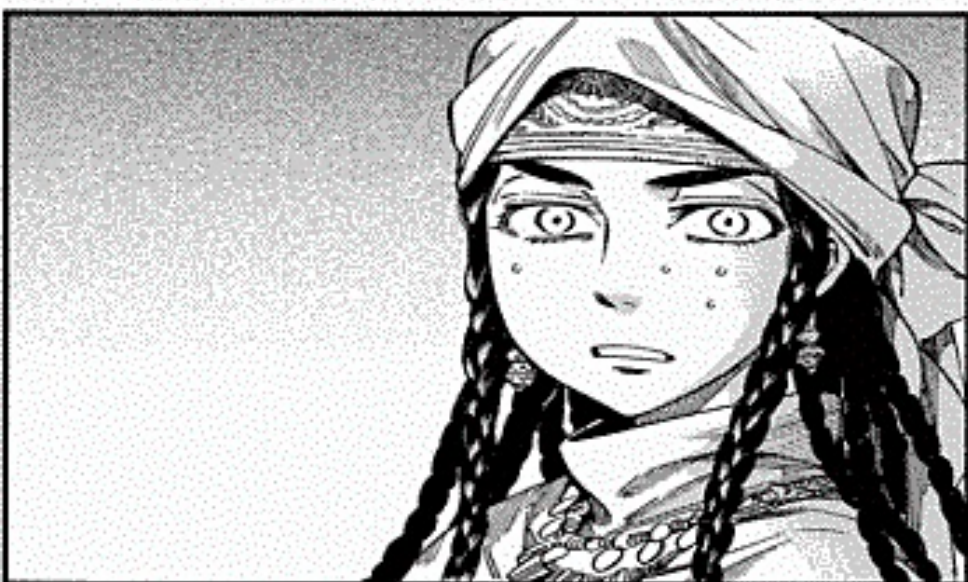
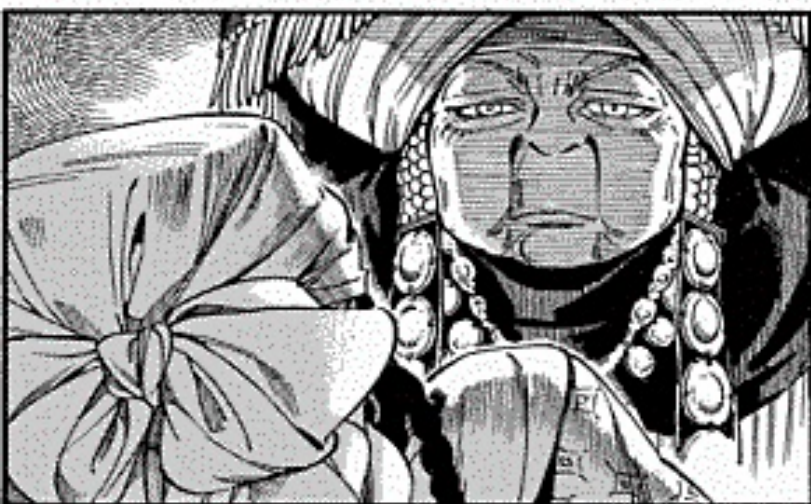












I NEVER KNEW
YOU WERE THIS
GOOD AT
EMBROIDERY!

WOW!
INCREDIBLE!



...IT'S
BETTER...

I
GUESS
...

...TO
MAKE
THE
BEST
STUFF
YOU
CAN.



YOU
WILL BE
MY WIFE,
RIGHT?

I DON'T
CARE HOW
OLD YOU
GET!

I'LL BE
A LUCKY
MAN TO
MARRY
YOU!



PARI-
YA...

I HAD NO
IDEA YOU
WERE SO
AMAZING!

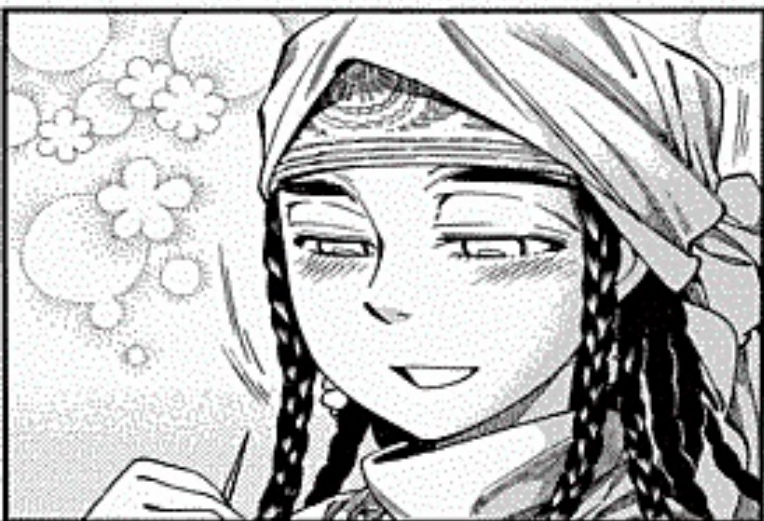


I'LL BET
YOU'RE ALL
JEALOUS
NOW!

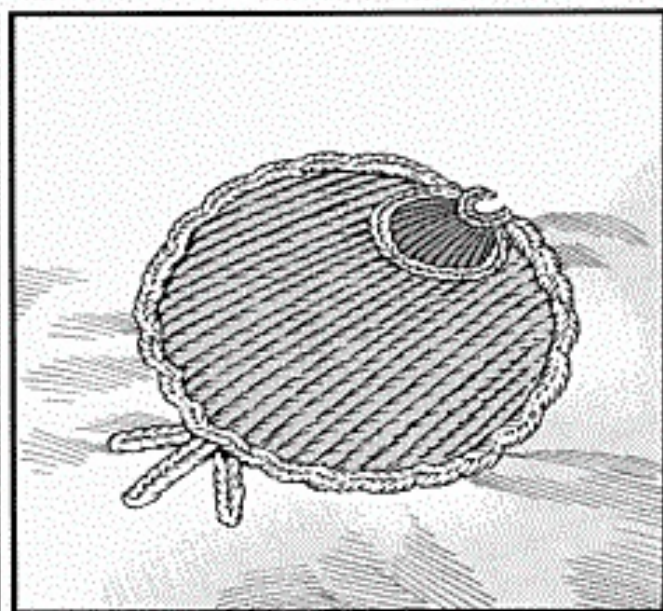
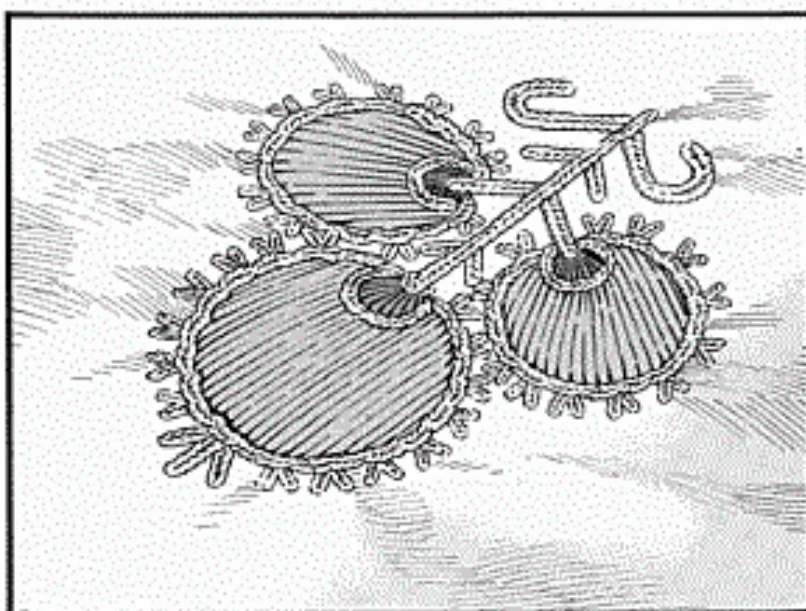
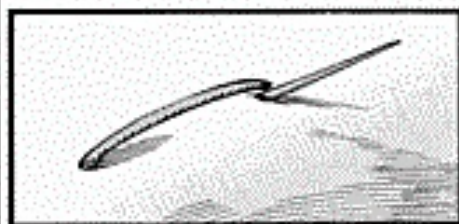
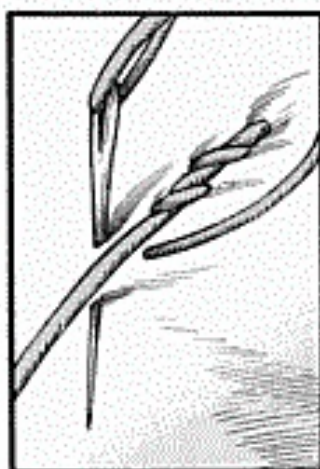
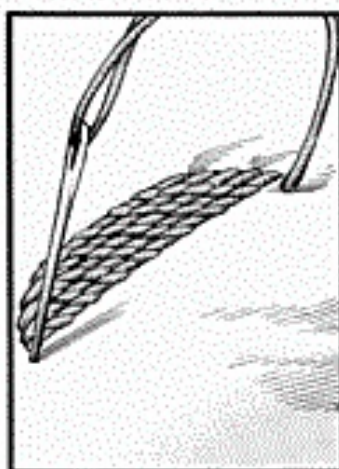
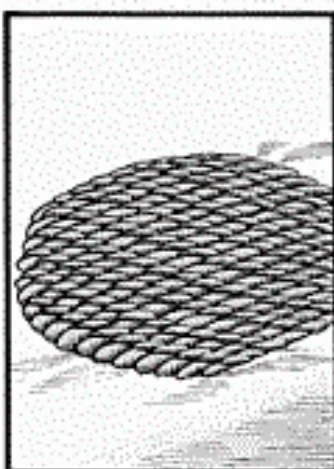
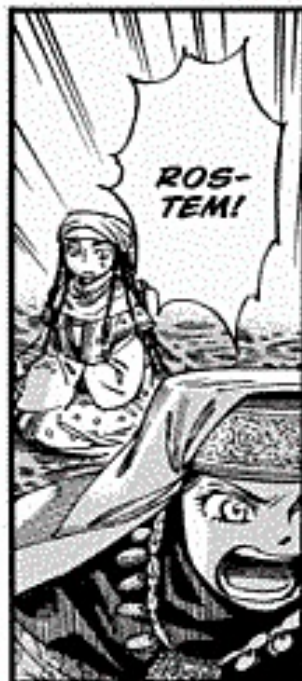
SEE WHAT
A FINE
BRIDE HAG
ENTERED MY
FAMILY?



EH
HEH
HEH.











YOU'RE
DOING
NEEDLEWORK
OUT HERE?



PARIYA.



I THOUGHT
A CHANGE
OF SCENERY
MIGHT
LIGHTEN MY
MOOD.



ISN'T IT
CUTE?



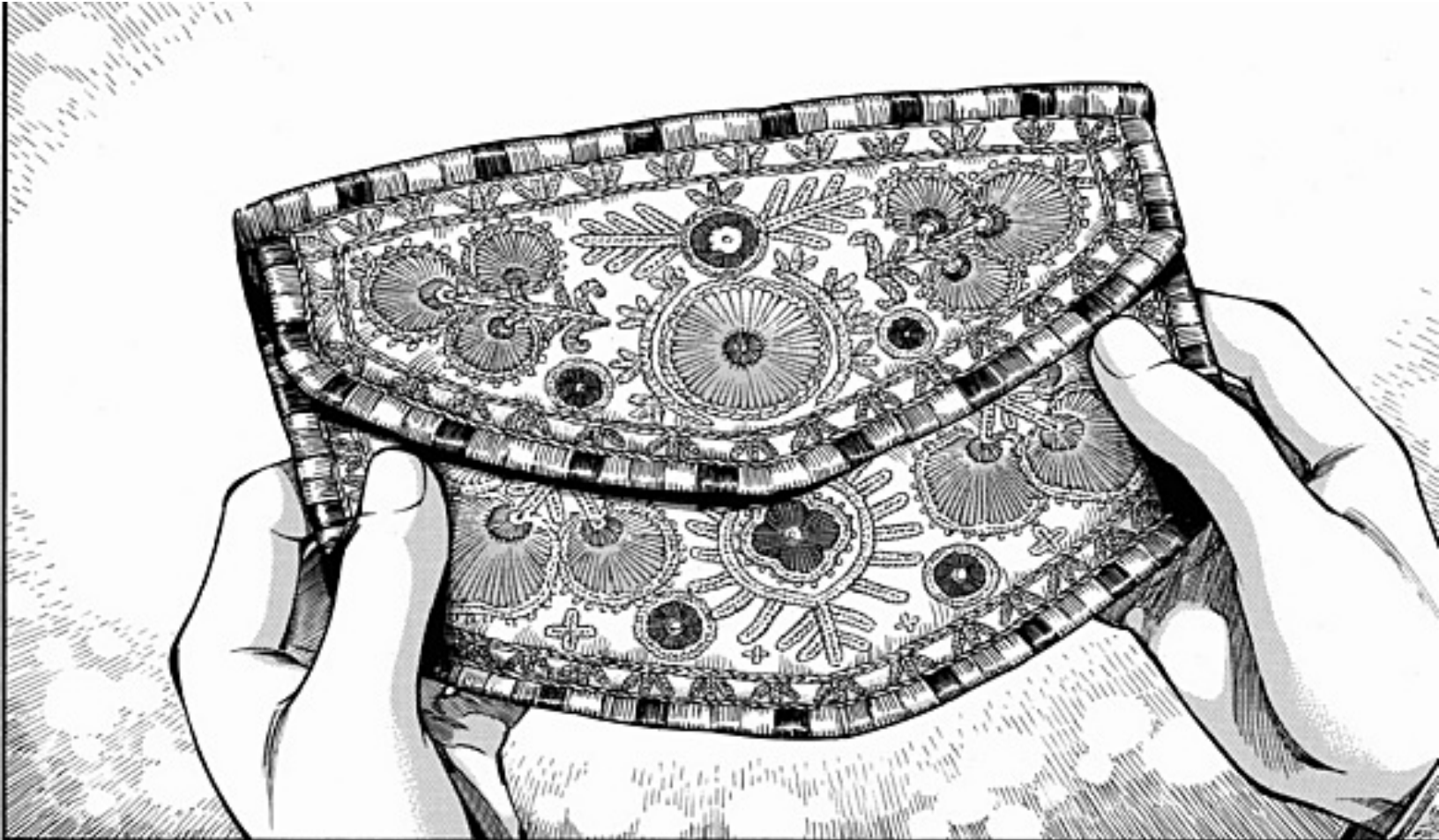
WHO DID
THIS?



?







YOU PAID ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS...



THE MORE
EMBROIDERING
YOU DO, THE
EASIER IT WILL
BECOME.



STARTING
IS THE
HARDEST
PART.



IT'S
VERY
PRETTY!

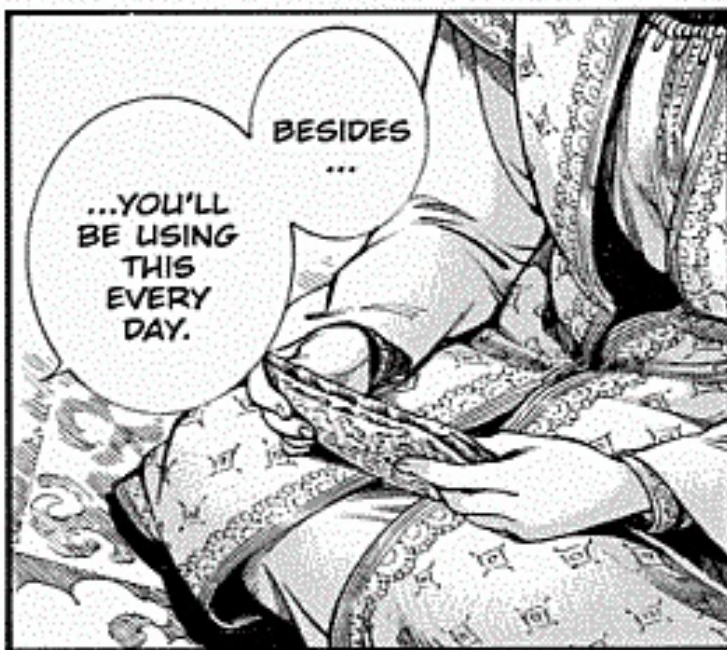


...THERE'S
STILL SO
MUCH
MORE LEFT
TO DO...

BUT...

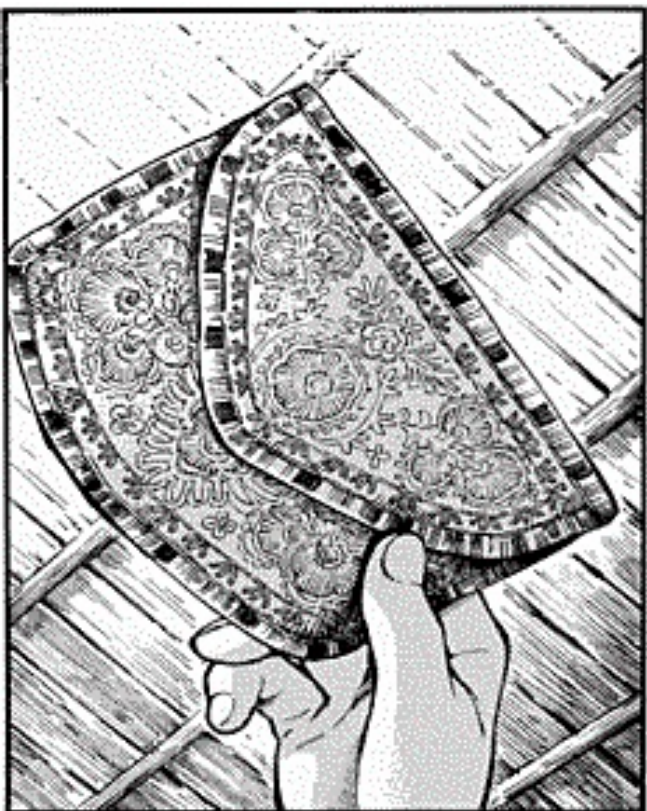


EVERY TIME
YOU SEE IT,
YOU'LL SEE
HOW WELL
YOU MADE IT.



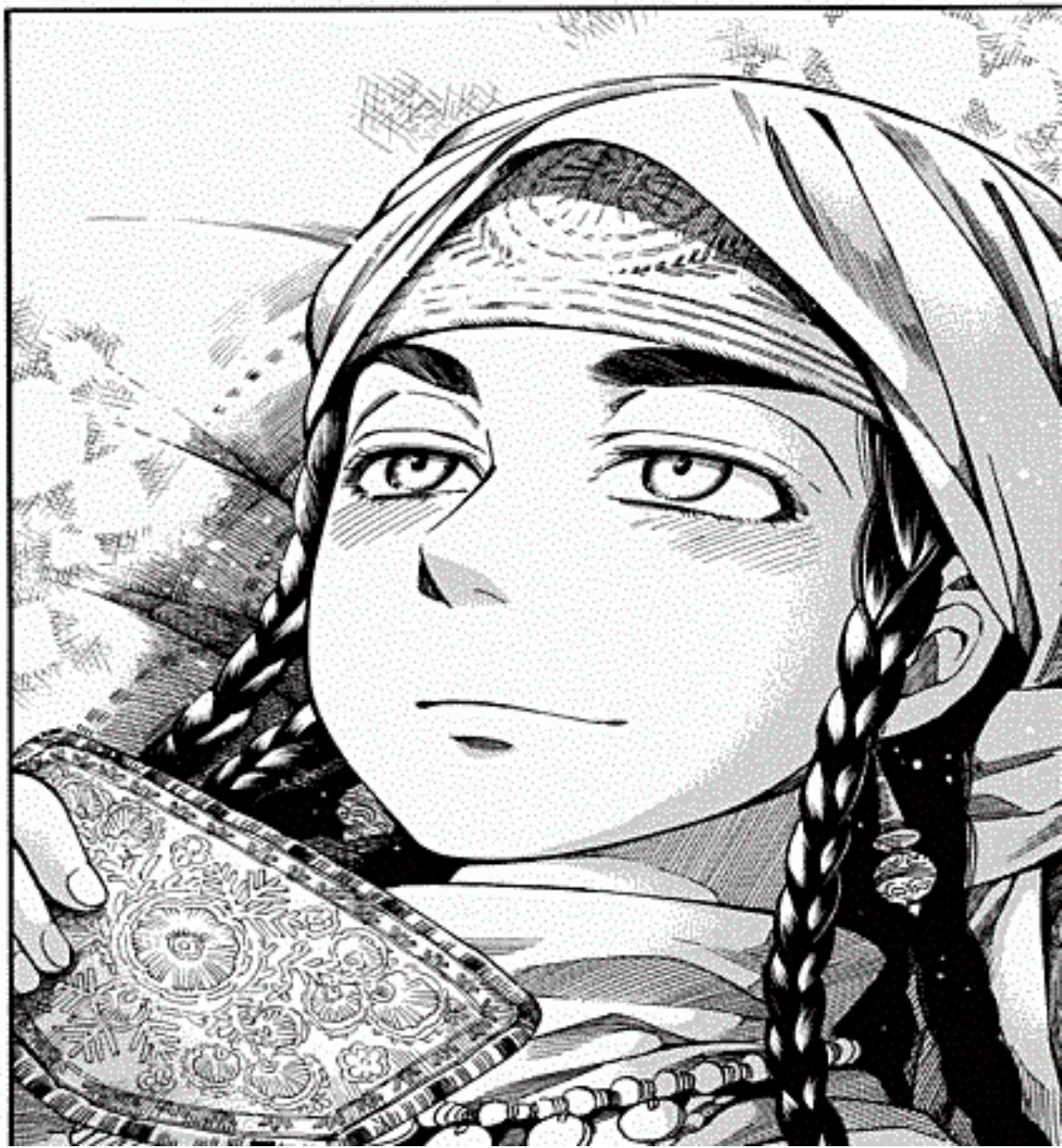
BESIDES
...

...YOU'LL
BE USING
THIS
EVERY
DAY.



MAYBE
NEXT
TIME...

...I'LL TRY
MAKING
SOMETHING
A LITTLE
BIGGER.









...SO I
THOUGHT
I'D LET HIM
STRETCH
HIS LEGS
A BIT.

THIS
GUY'S
BEEN
COOPED
UP ALL
THIS
TIME...



KARLUK?

OH,
YUSUF!



WHERE
ARE YOU
HEADED?



OH,
I'M
FINE.

TORKAN
AND THE
OTHER
CHILDREN
HELP.



YOU'VE
BEEN TAKING
CARE OF
ALL THOSE
HORSES
BY YOUR-
SELF...

HAVE
YOU BEEN
MANAGING
ON YOUR
OWN?













◆
CHAPTER 48
UMAR IS HERE
◆





ANY SIBLINGS?
OR PROMINENT
RELATIVES? IS
HE AN ONLY
CHILD?

I WONDER
WHAT
KIND OF
WORK HIS
FAMILY
DOES.

WHAT?
YOU MEAN
THAT
PARIYA!?

THAT
BOY IS IN
TALKS TO
MARRY
PARIYA!

WHERE
DOES HE
LIVE?



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING,
GOSSIP-
ING OVER
HERE?



HER
MOTHER
MUST BE SO
RELIEVED
THAT THEY
FINALLY
FOUND A
MATCH.

WE'LL
CERTAINLY
NEED AN
INTRO-
DUCTION
SOMETIME
SOON.



HE
LOOKS
A BIT
TOO THIN,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

HE
LOOKS A
RESPONS-
IBLE SORT
TO ME.
NOT A BAD
CHOICE.



I CAN DO
A LOT OF
THINGS.

WATCH
SHEEP.
CARRY
WATER.
MAKE
BRICKS.

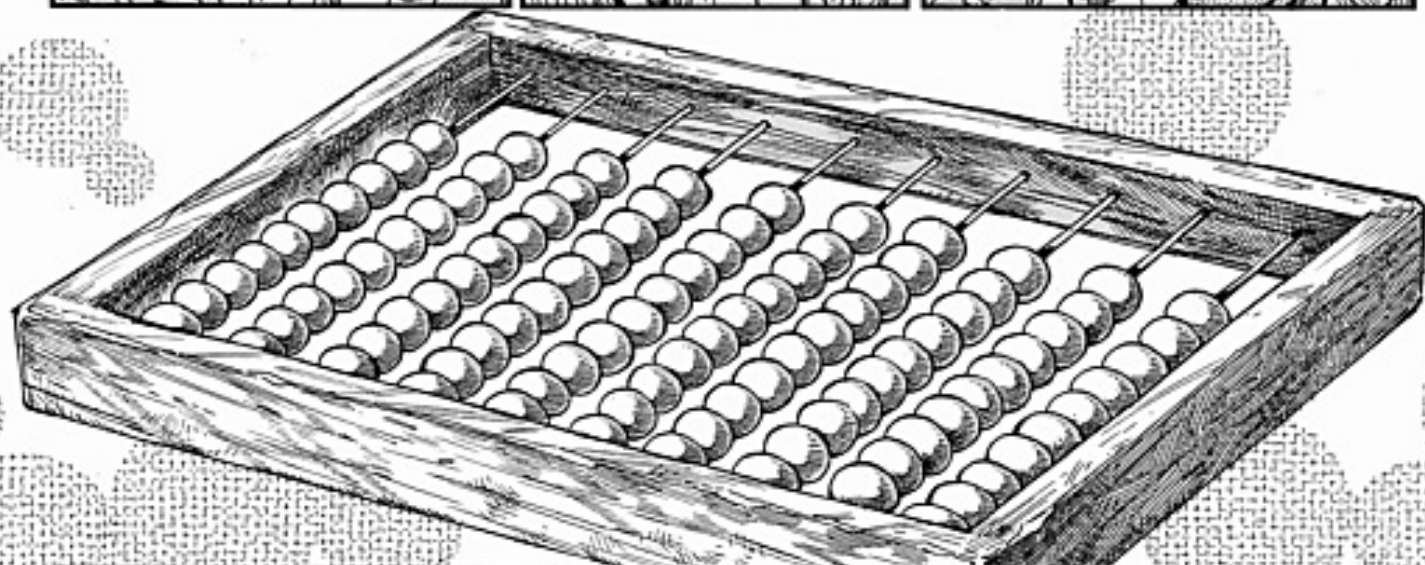


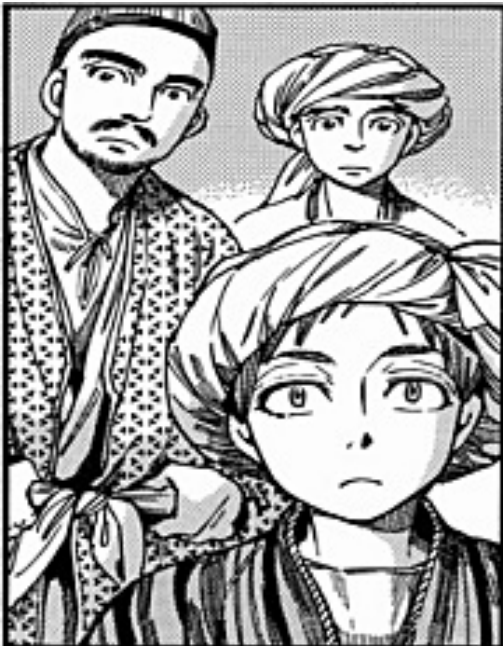
...WHAT
CAN YOU
DO?



LET'S
SEE...

WHAT
SHOULD
WE HAVE
YOU DO?









THIS IS PERFECT. WE NEED TO TAKE AN INVENTORY OF WHAT LUMBER AND METAL WE HAVE ON HAND.

HAVING SOMEONE WHO CAN DO QUICK CALCULATIONS WILL BE A GREAT HELP.



HE'S COME TO HELP THE TOWN, SO TOWN BUSINESS COMES BEFORE PERSONAL MATTERS.

HOLD ON.



WE'LL POOL RESOURCES IF WE NEED TO.

TAKE UMAR WITH YOU AND START LOOKING INTO IT.



I CAN.

WHO HERE CAN WRITE?



YES, SIR!



UMAR?



I'M COUNTING ON YOU.



THEY SAY
HE'S ABLE
TO USE AN
ABACUS.



HE SAYS HE HAS RELATIVES IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER, SO FOR A WHILE HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP OUT HERE DURING THE DAY.



HE'S VERY FAST.

I WAS IMPRESSED.



SO HE CAN DO THAT TOO?



EH!?

NO!

PARIYA, BRING HIM SOME BREAD AND FRUIT.



WELL, WE SHOULD AT LEAST BRING HIM A GIFT OR TWO.



EXACTLY! PUT ON SOME PROPER CLOTHES AND GO!

HE'S COME ALL THIS WAY, RIGHT? GO AND SEE HIM!

I'LL LOAN YOU SOME NICE CLOTHES!



THEN THIS IS YOUR PERFECT CHANCE!

AN APOLOGY WILL TAKE CARE OF THE WHOLE MATTER!

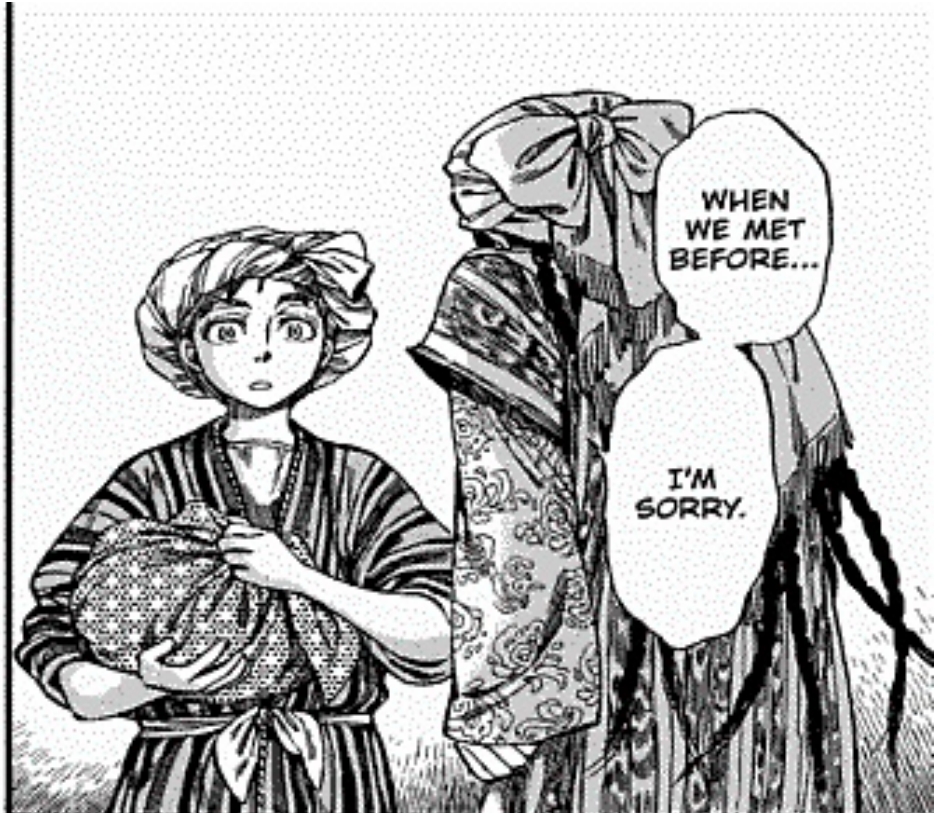


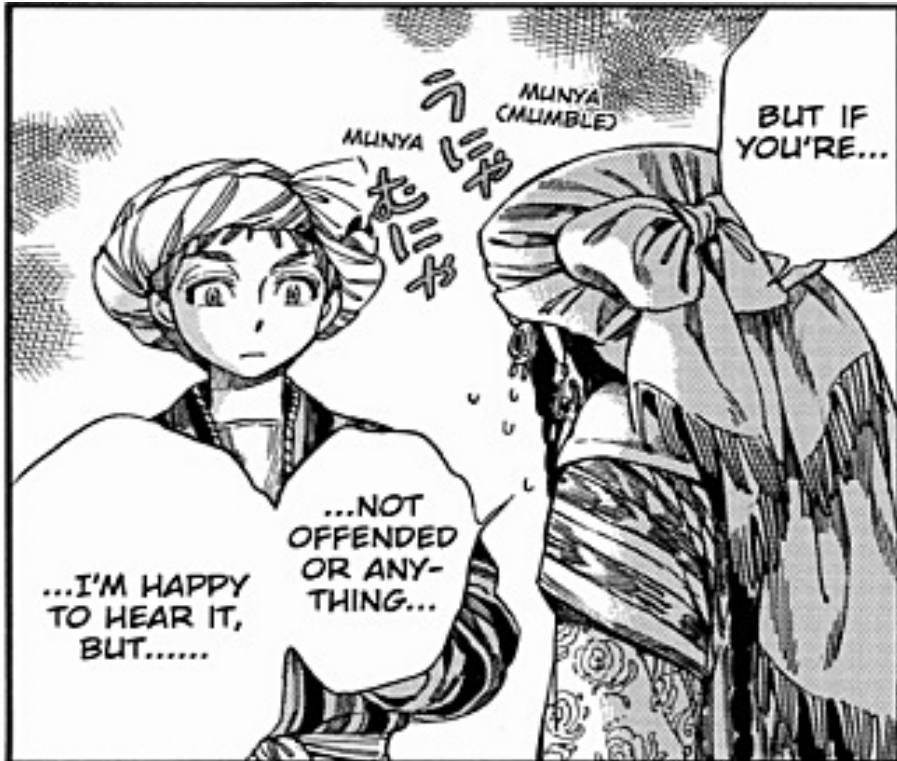
I...

I MEAN...

HOW CAN I FACE HIM NOW...?

I SAID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS TO HIM BEFORE...







...SO
I WANT TO
MAKE SURE
I DO THEM
PROPERLY.

AFTER ALL,
EVERYONE
WILL SEE
THEM...



...THIS
TIME...

...THAT
...

...I
CAN MAKE
IT BETTER
THAN I DID
BEFORE.



BUT...

BUT
MAKING IT
ALL OVER
AGAIN
MEANS...



I THINK
THE WHOLE
EXPERIENCE
MIGHT NOT
BE ALL
BAD...



THEY'RE
PRETTY
IMPORT-
TANT...

...SO I
DON'T THINK
I SHOULD
JUST RUSH
MY WAY
THROUGH
THEM...



ER...
HUH?

NO. NO,
IT ISN'T. I
TAKE THAT
BACK...

MAYBE IT'S
ACTUALLY
BETTER
THAT THINGS
TURNED
OUT THIS
WAY...

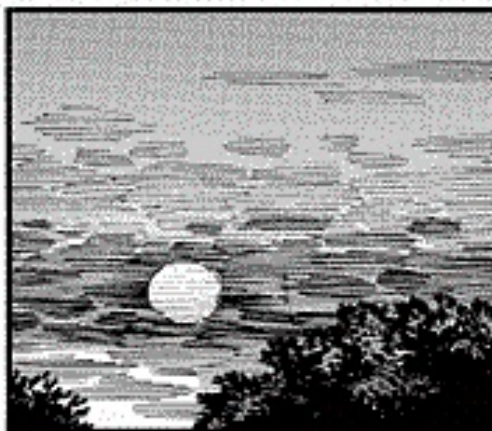
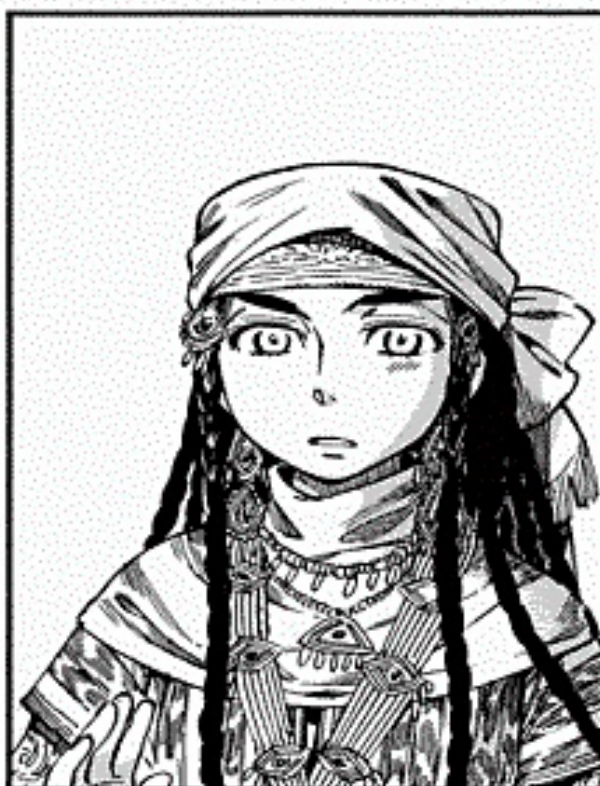
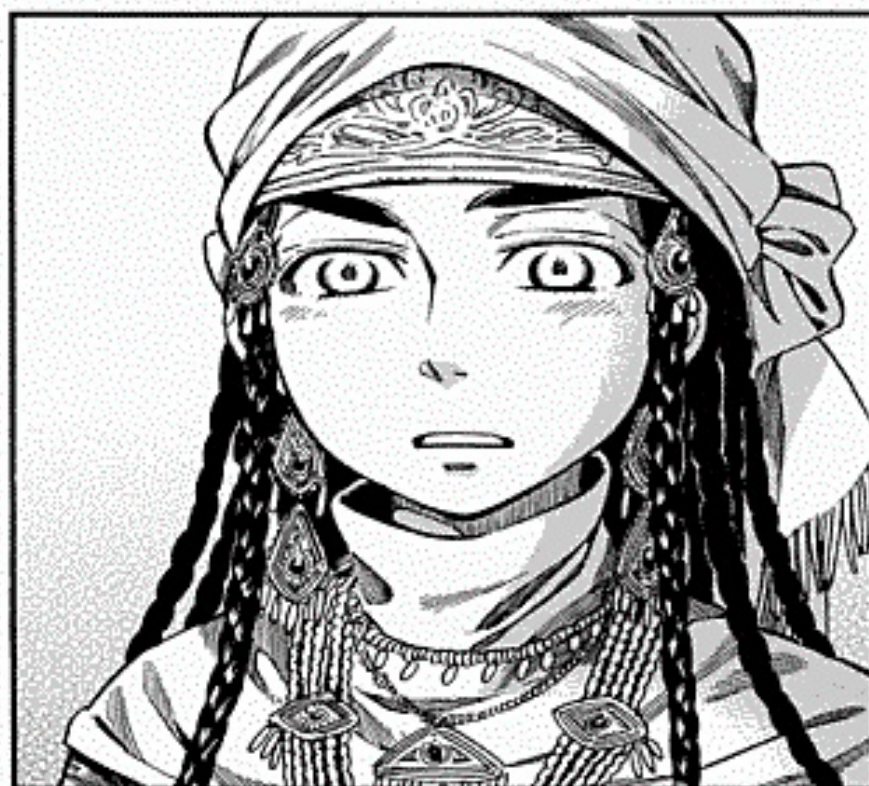


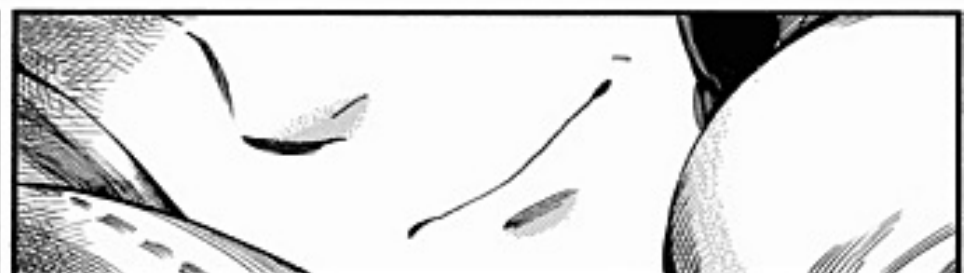
I-I MIGHT
HAVE NEEDED
THIS TO GET
BETTER AT MY
EMBROIDERY...

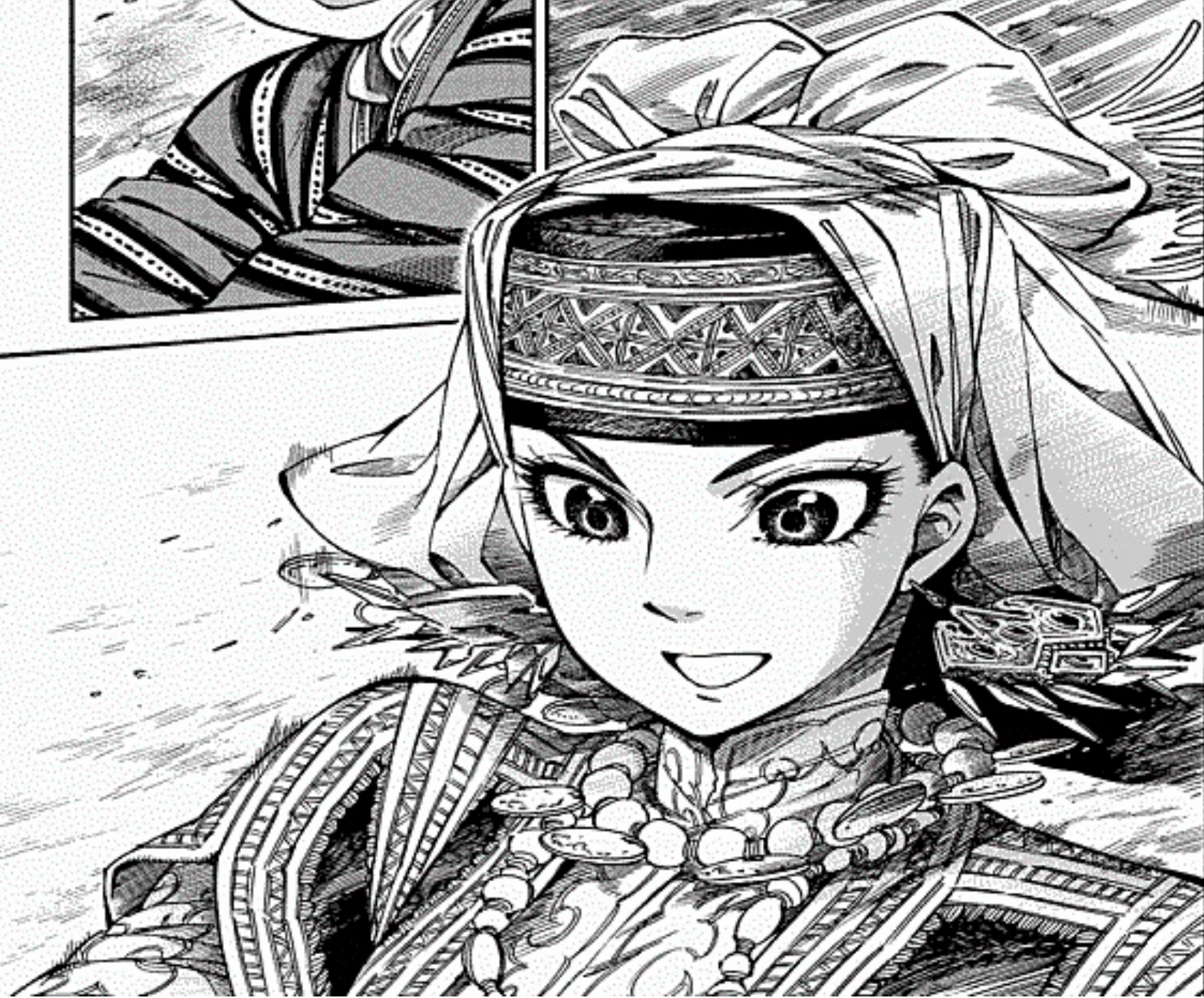
SO
MAYBE
...

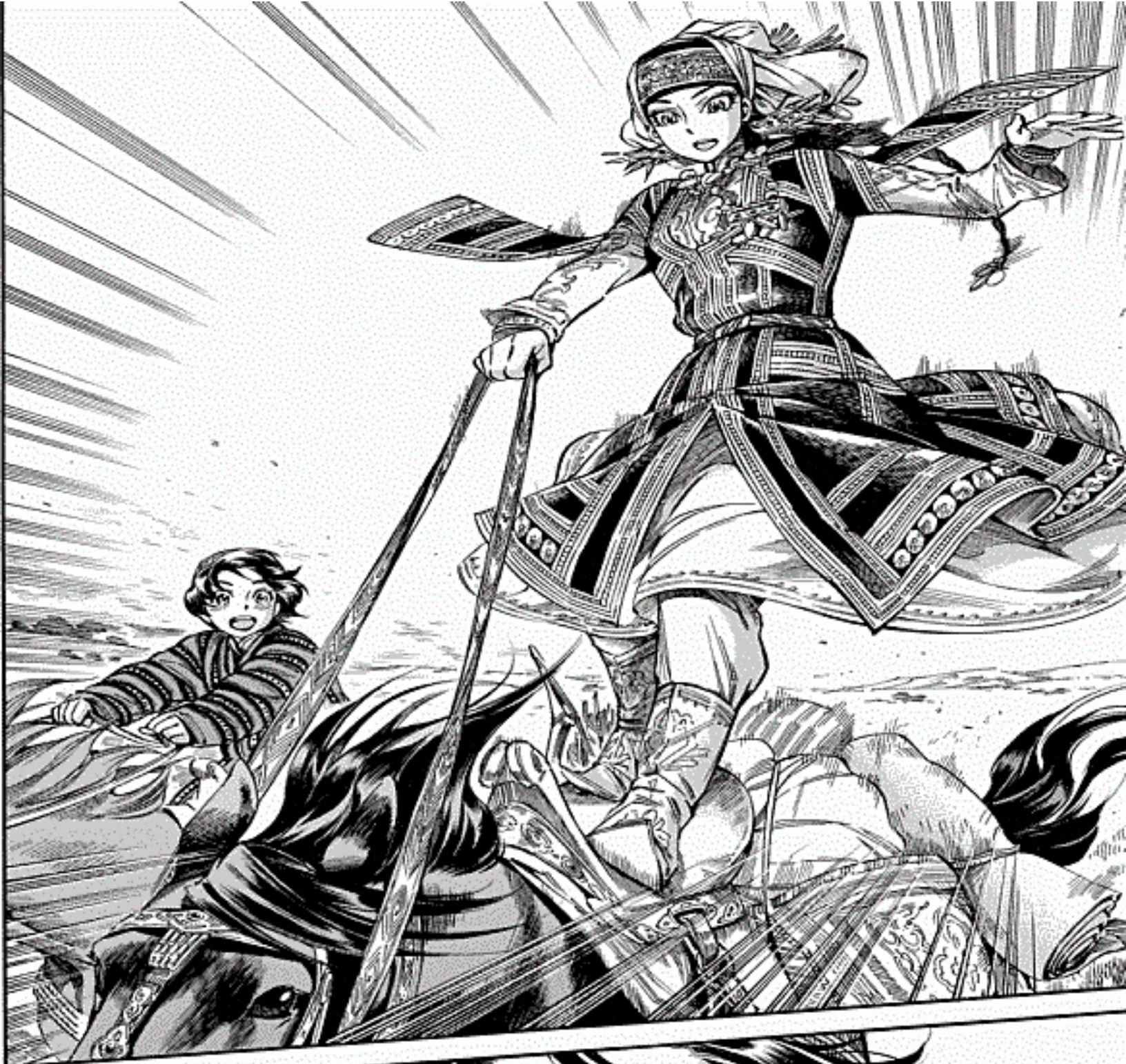






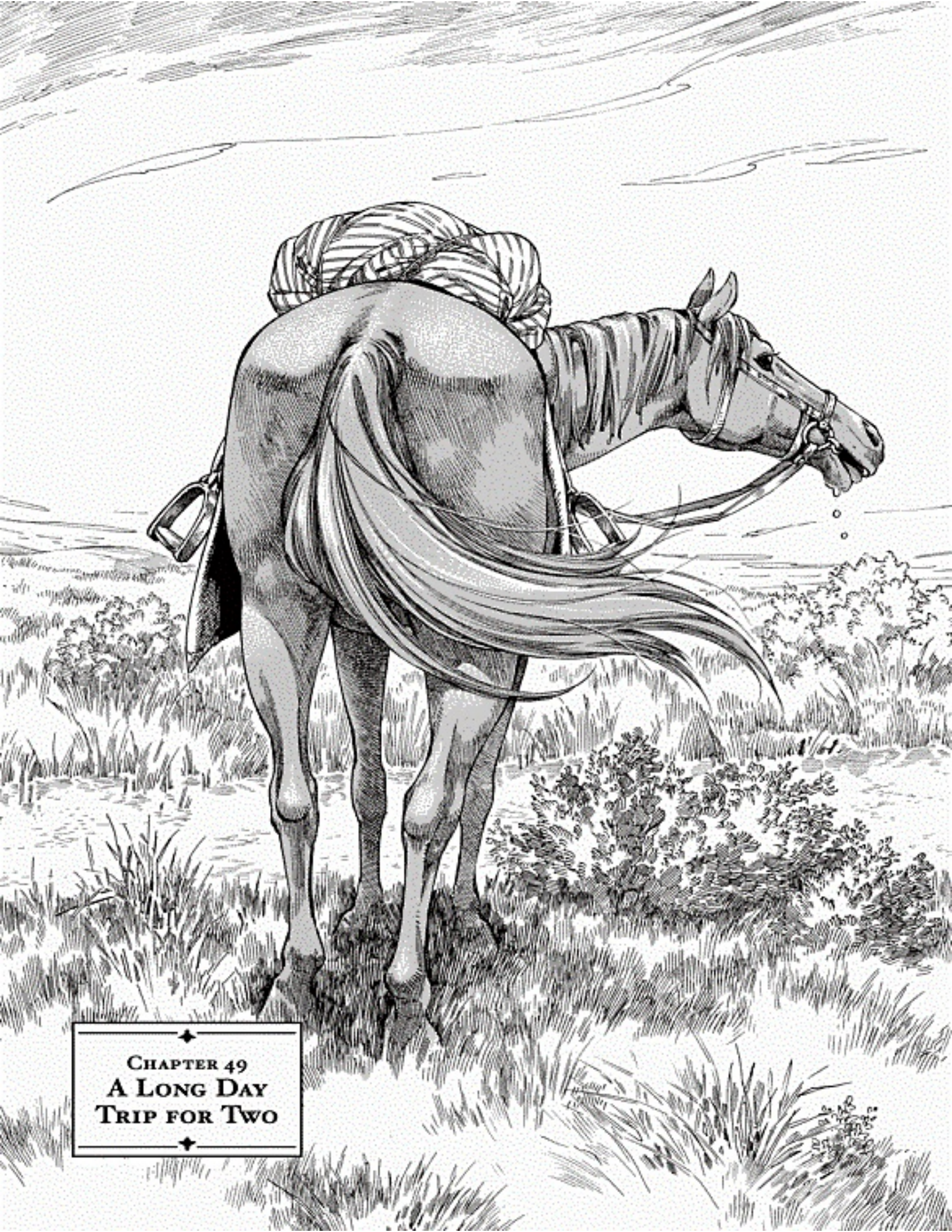






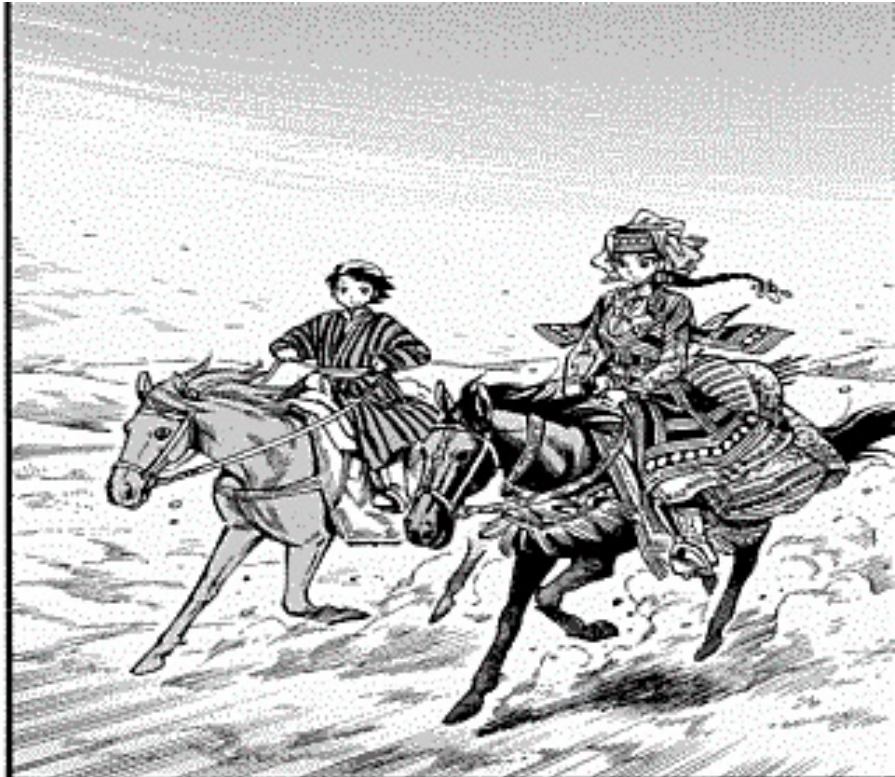
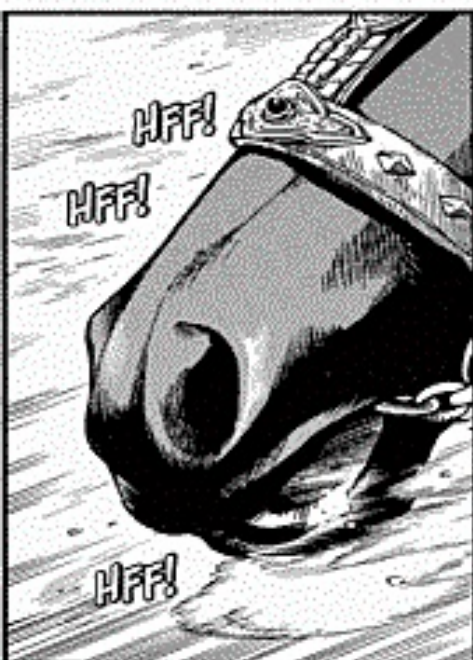
THAT'S
AMAZING!
AMAZING!!





◆
CHAPTER 49
A LONG DAY
TRIP FOR TWO
◆





WHAT ELSE
COULD YOU
DO AFTER
PARIYA AND
HER FAMILY
LOST THEIR
HOME?

DON'T
WORRY

...
ABOUT
ME.

I'M
FINE.

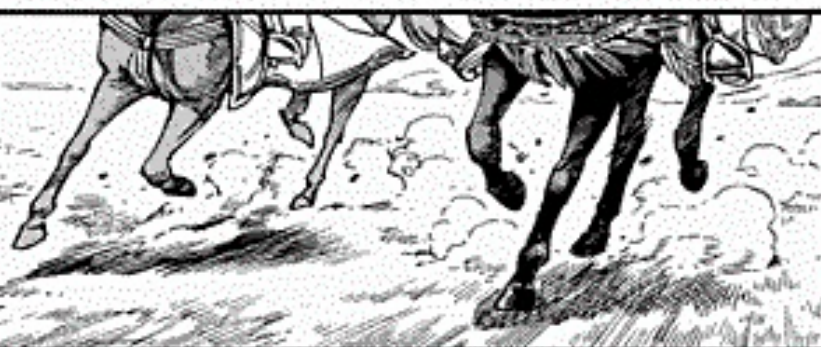
THERE'S
SO MUCH
THAT HAS
TO BE
DONE.....

EVERY-
ONE'S
BUSY
THESE
DAYS.

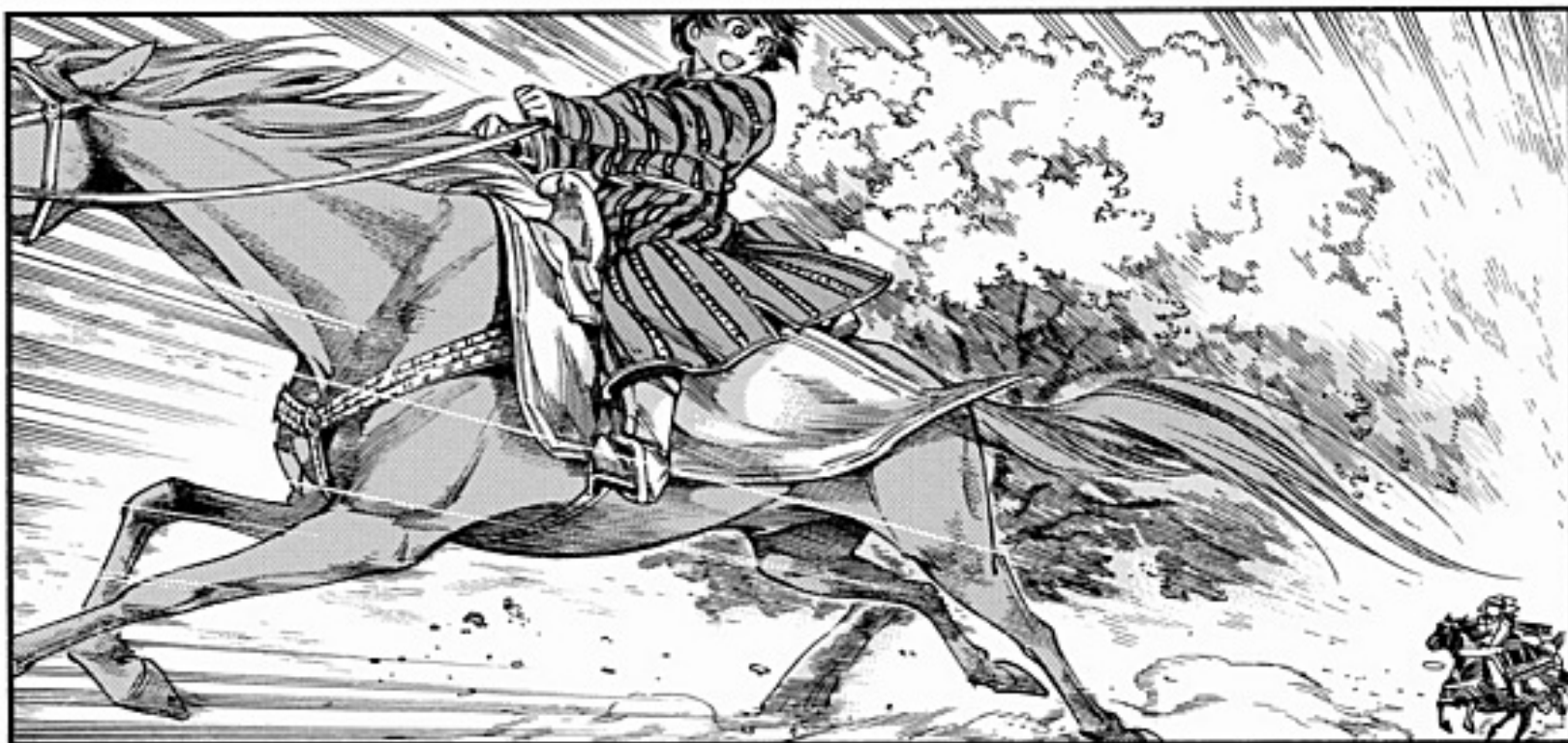
EH?

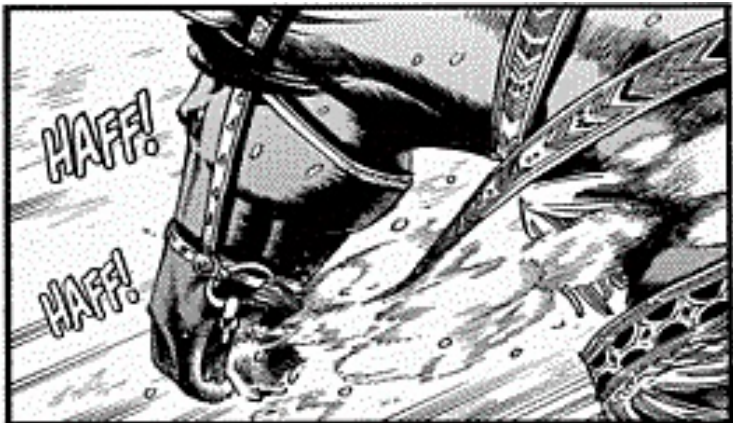
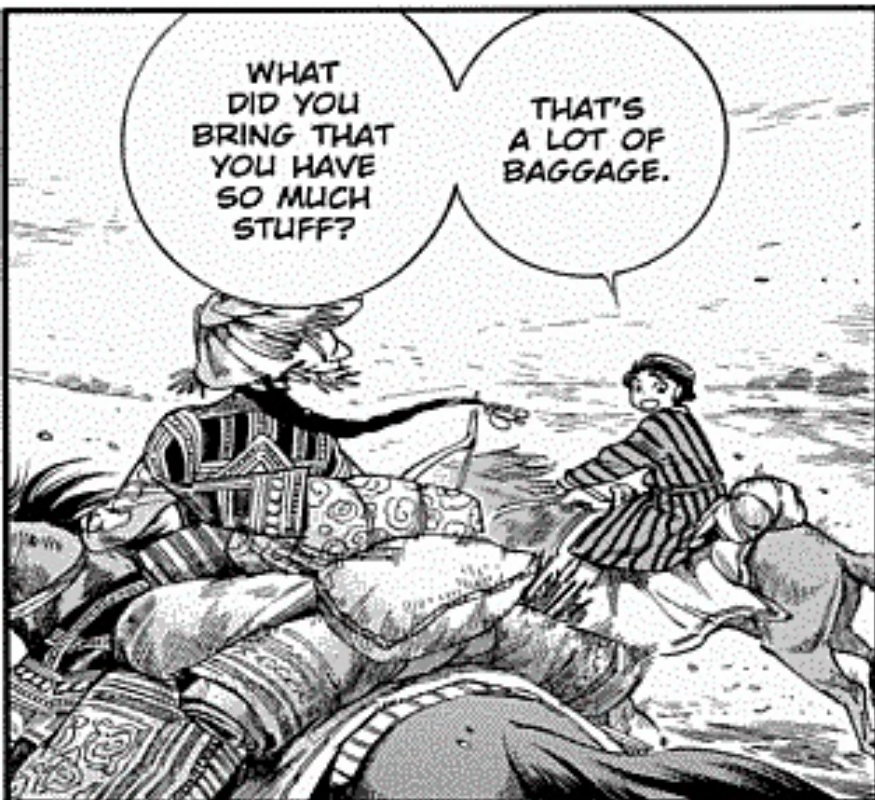
...I HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
YOU EITHER,
KARLUK.

JUST
SO YOU
KNOW...



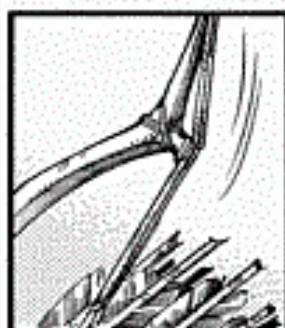
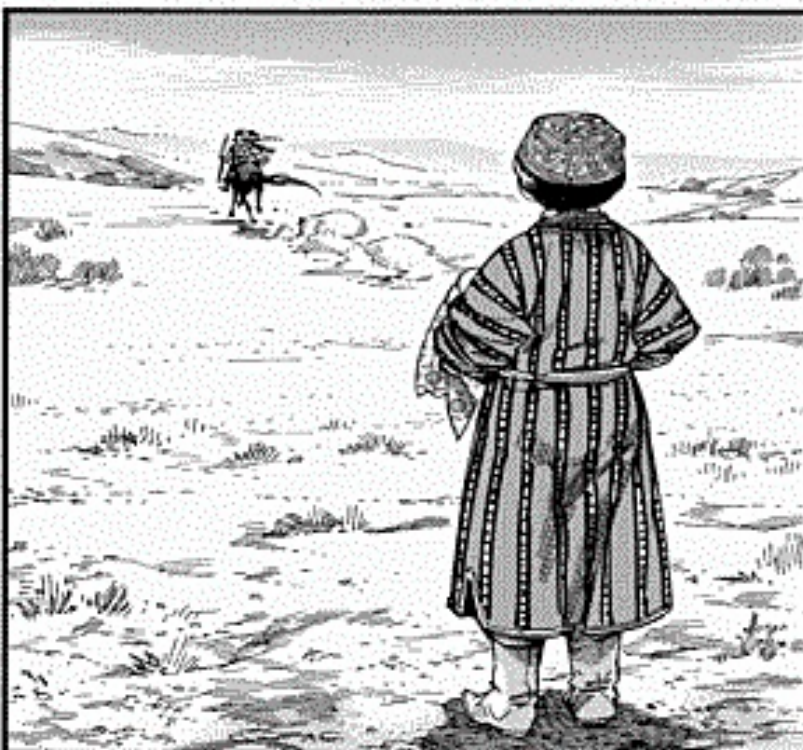


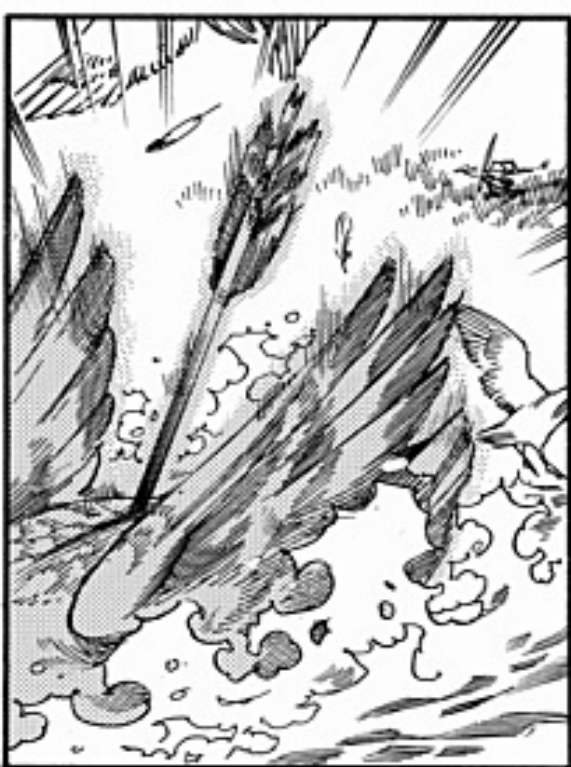
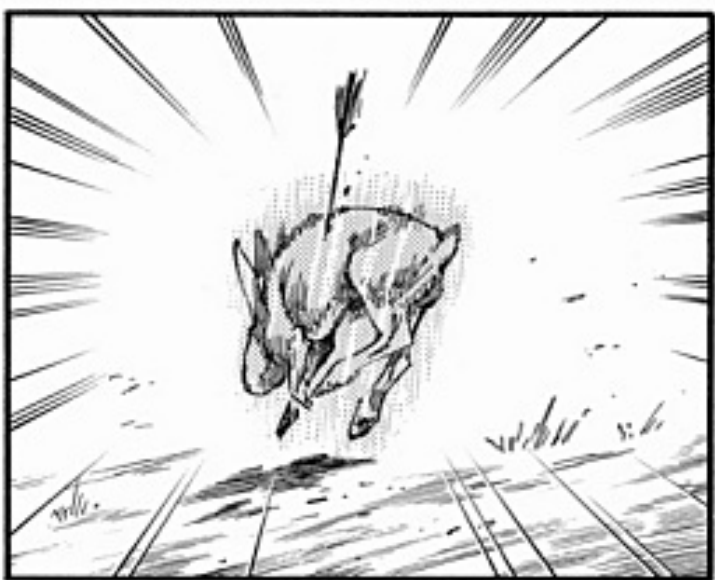
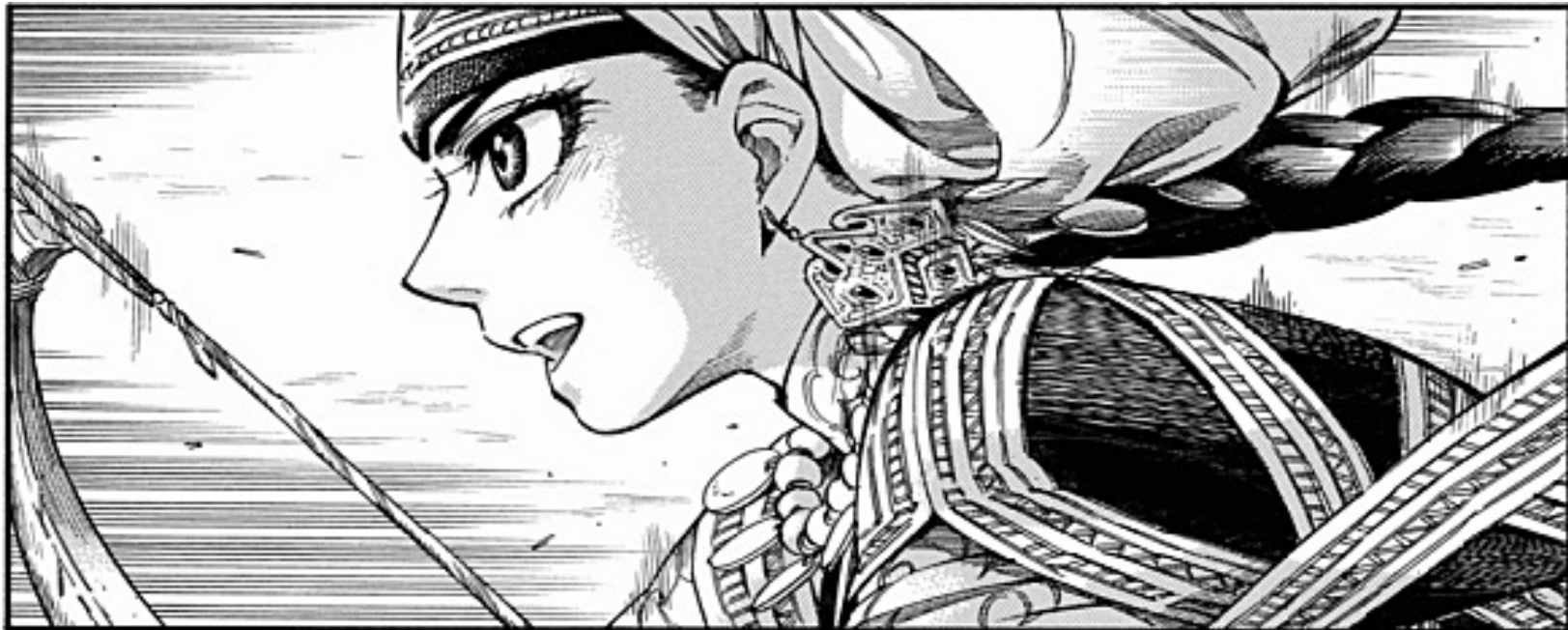


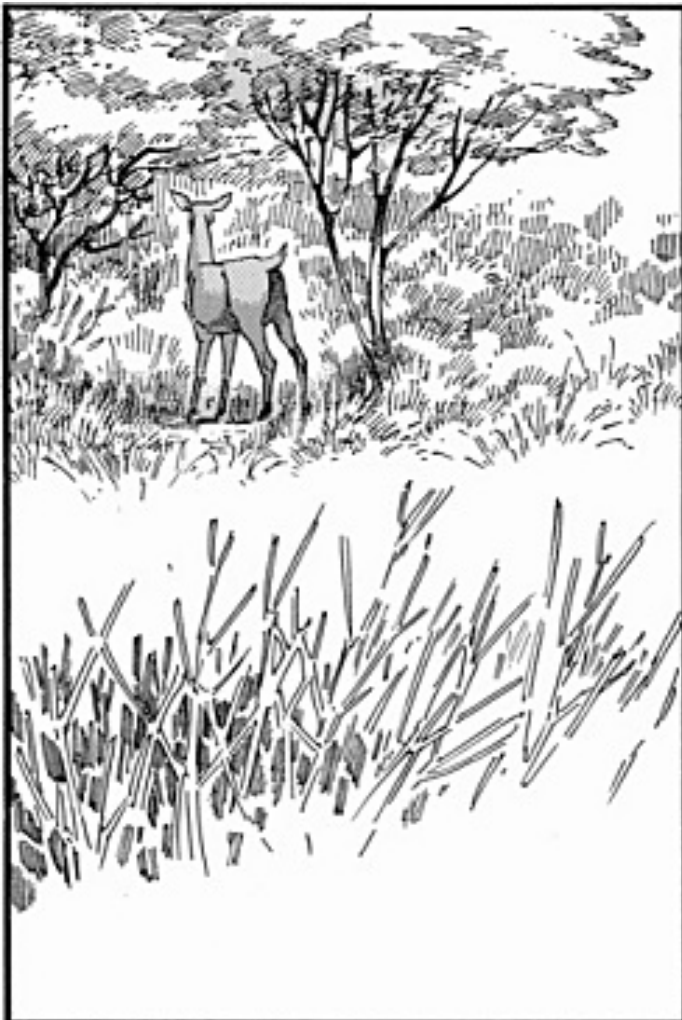


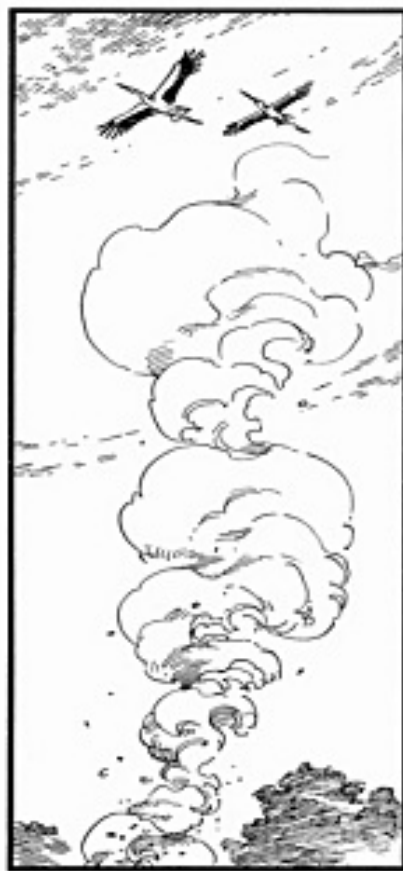






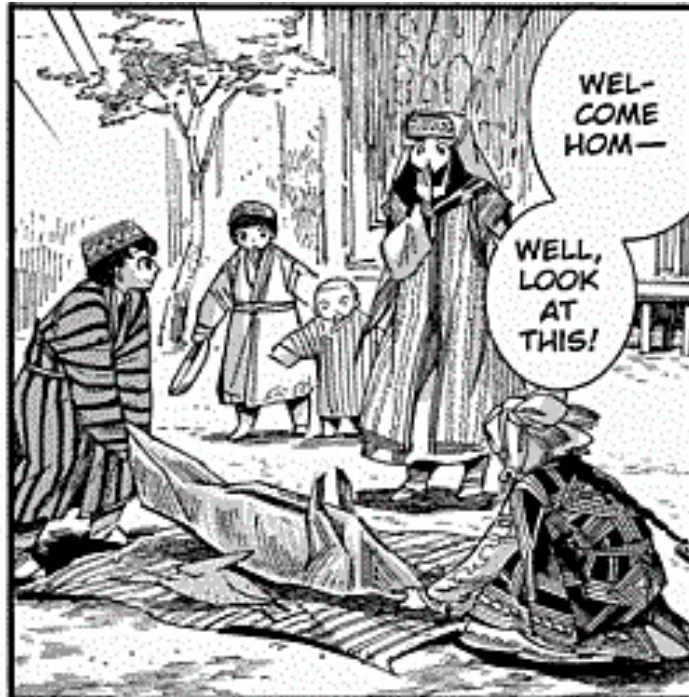












WEL-
COME
HOM—

WELL,
LOOK
AT
THIS!



WE'RE
HOME!



SULKEEK
SHOULD BE
SATISFIED
FOR NOW.

WE
GAVE
THEM A
GOOD
RUN.



WEL-
COME
BACK.

HOW
DID IT
GO?



IS
THAT FOR
UMAR...

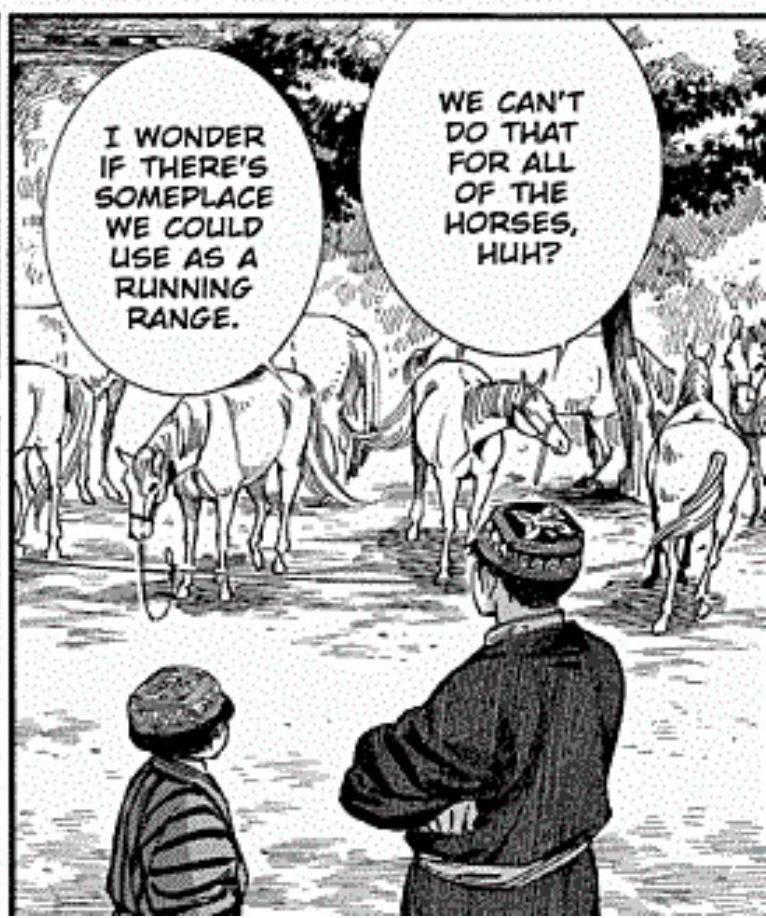
...
PARIYA?



MOTHER
SAID
GO...

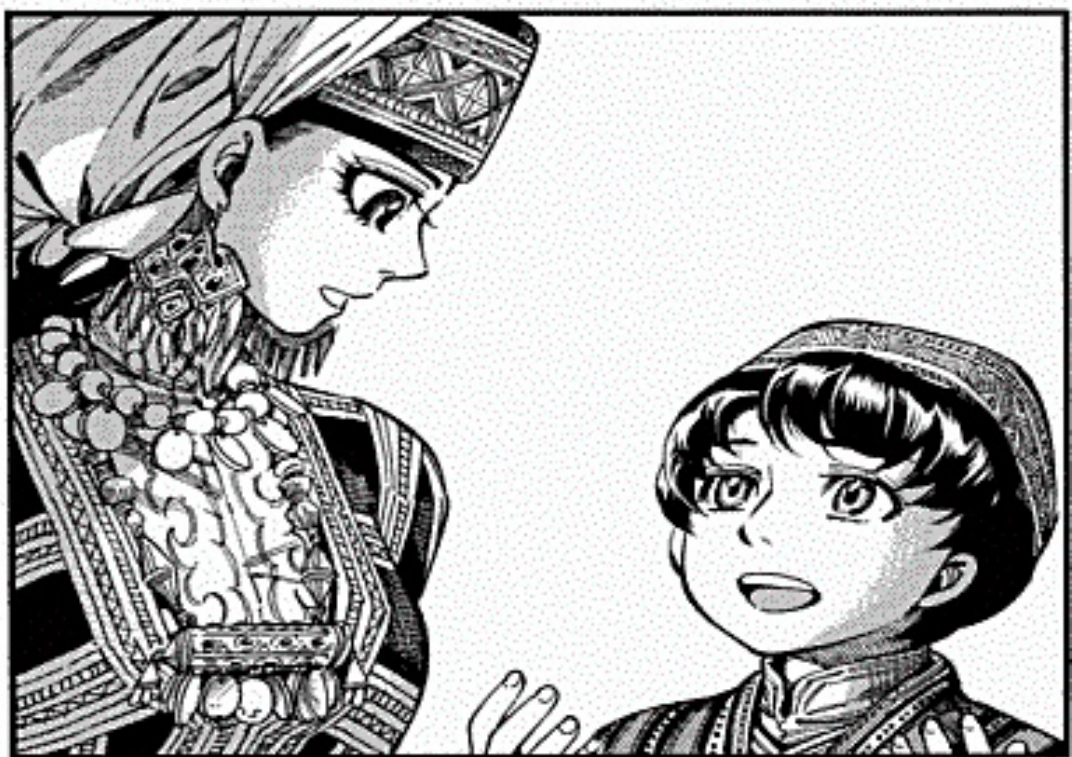
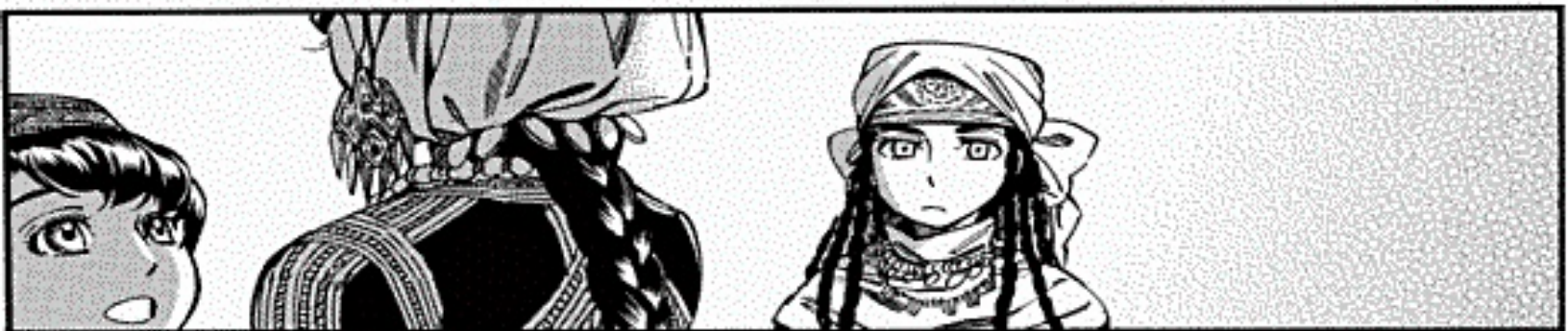
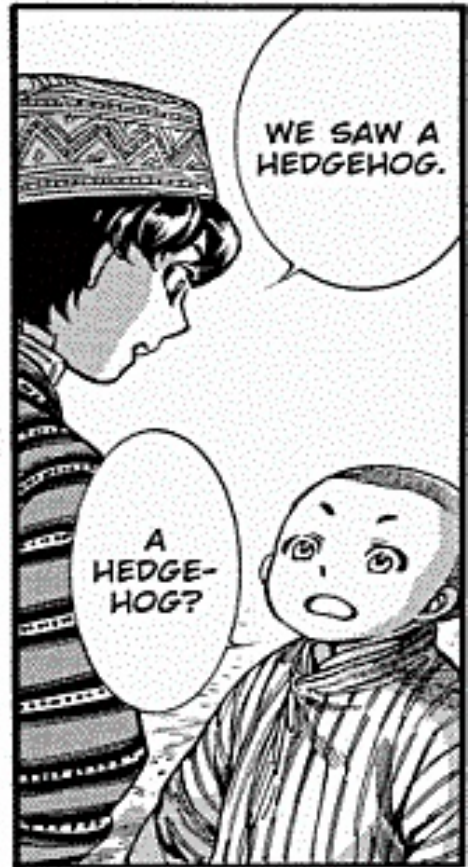
I HAVE TO
BRING HIM
SOMETHING
EVERY DAY
WHILE HE'S
HELPING
OUT...

UM...
YES.



I WONDER
IF THERE'S
SOMEPLACE
WE COULD
USE AS A
RUNNING
RANGE.

WE CAN'T
DO THAT
FOR ALL
OF THE
HORSES,
HUH?





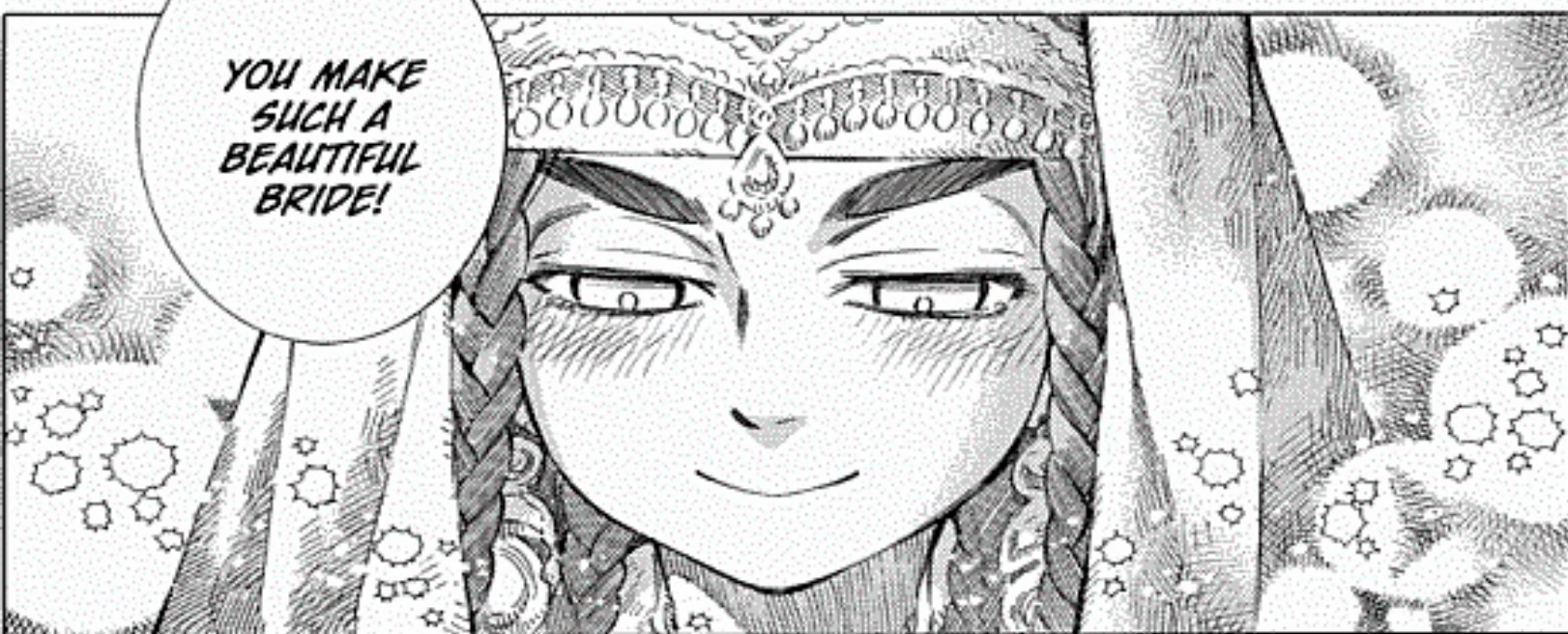
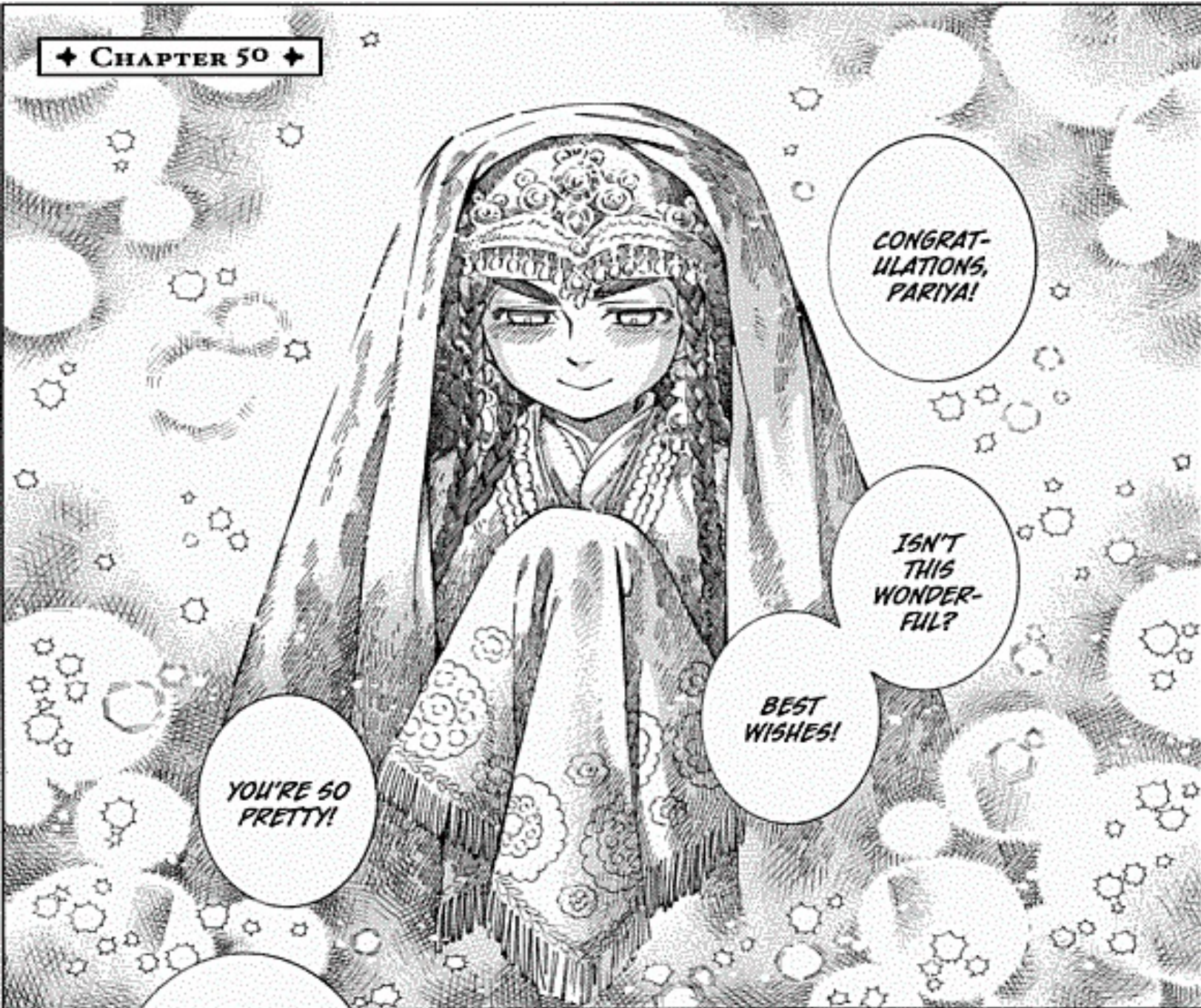


ALL OF YOUR FAMILY...YOUR BROTHER TOO...ARE REALLY GOOD WITH A BOW, RIGHT?

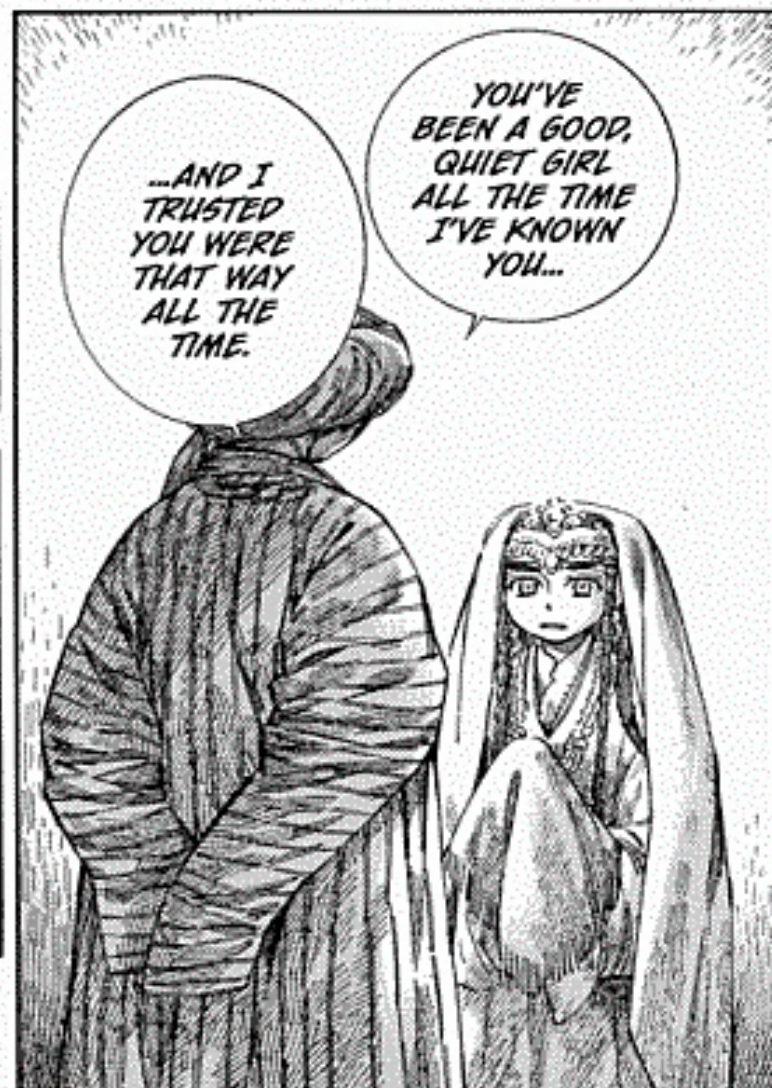
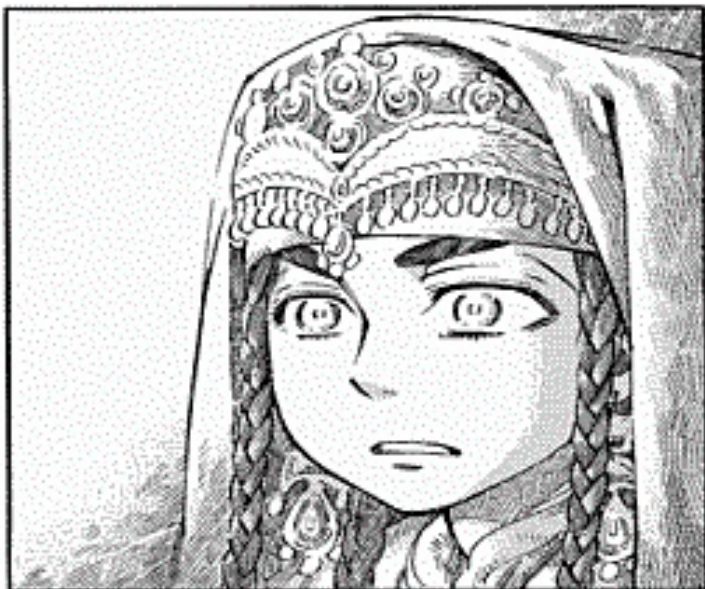
I WAS THINKING IT WOULD BE NICE FOR ME TO KNOW TOO.







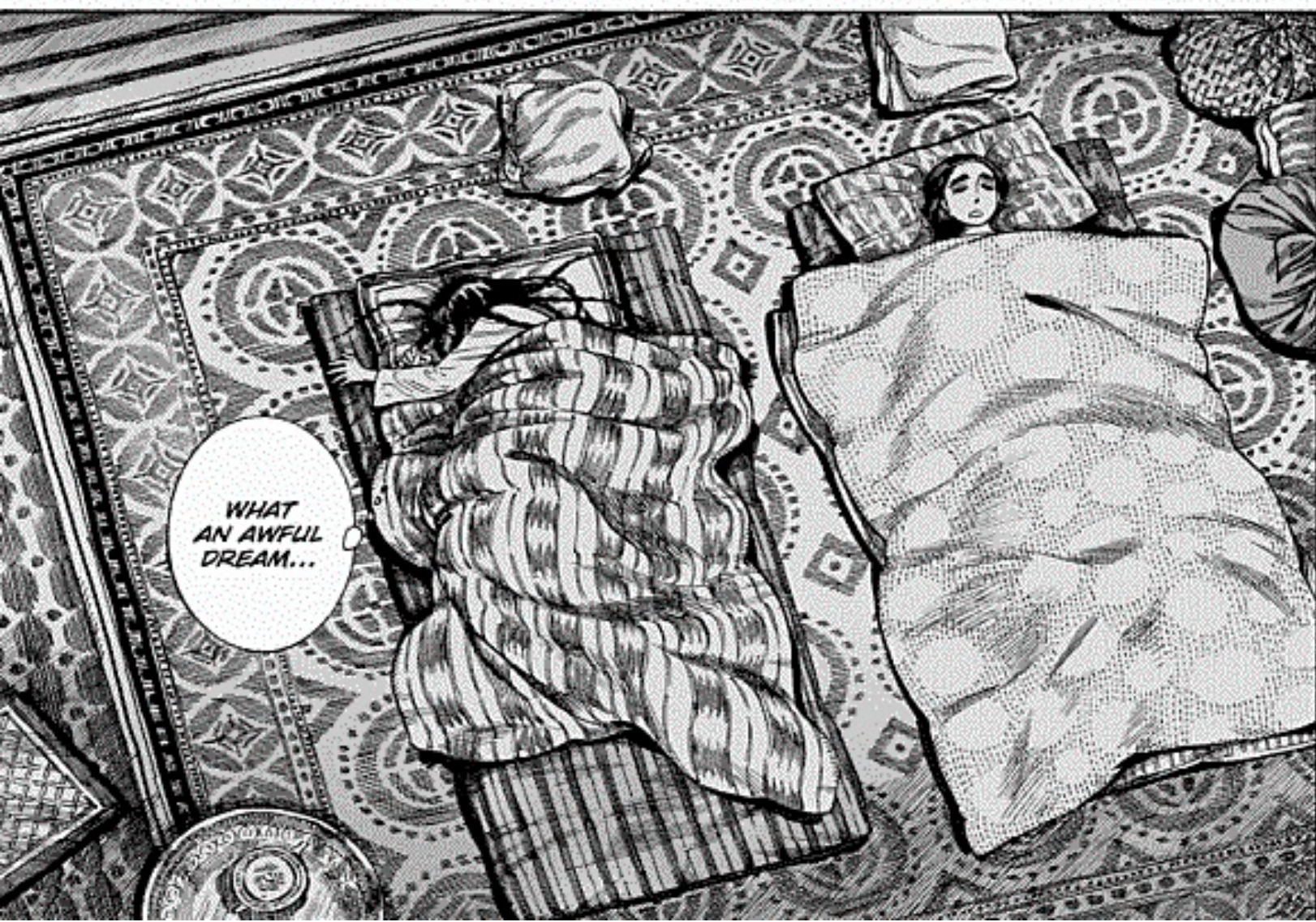






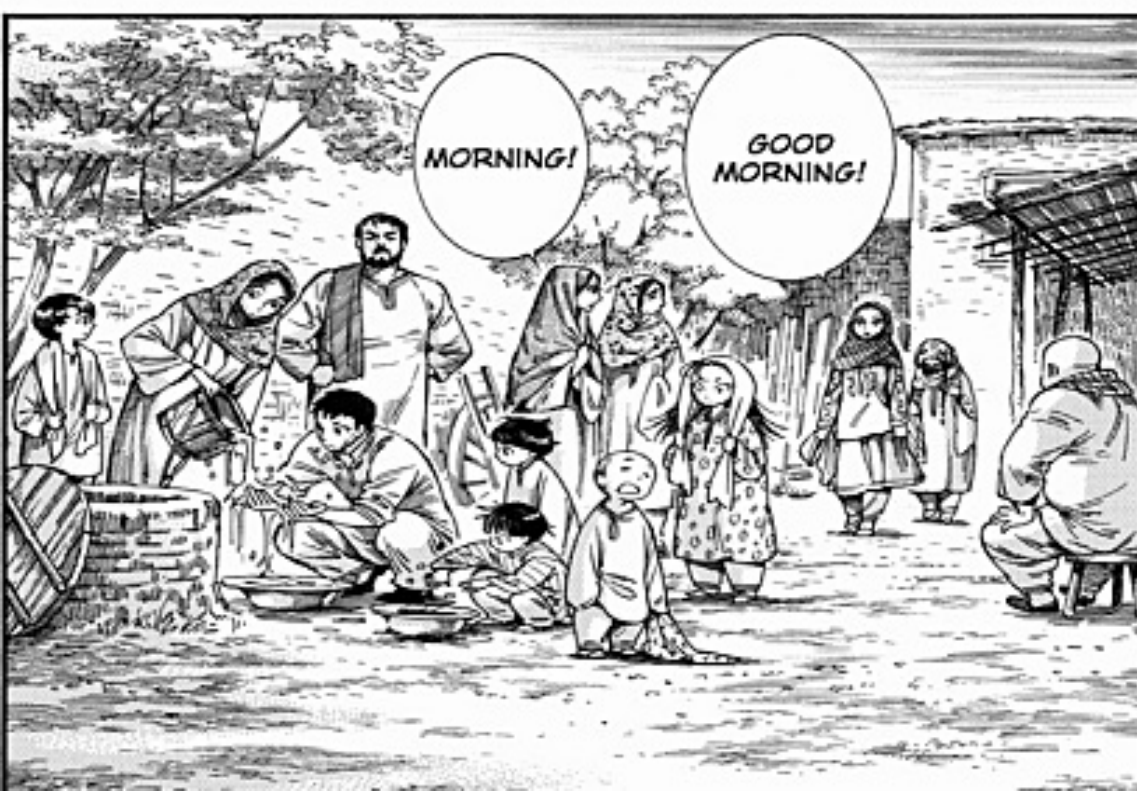
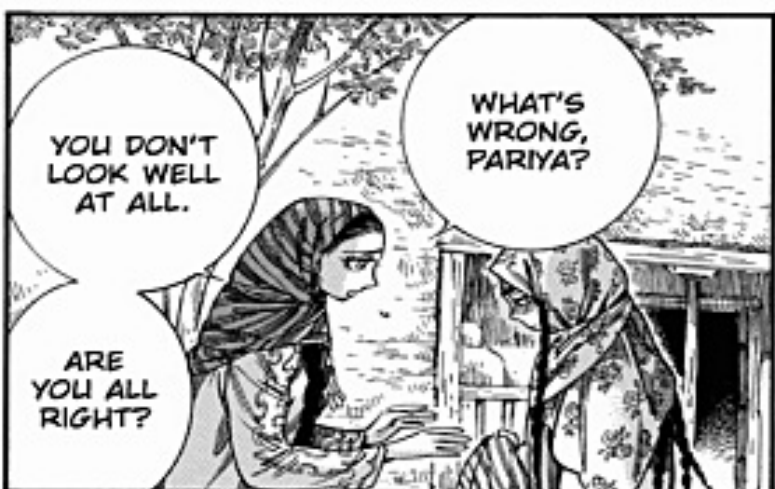


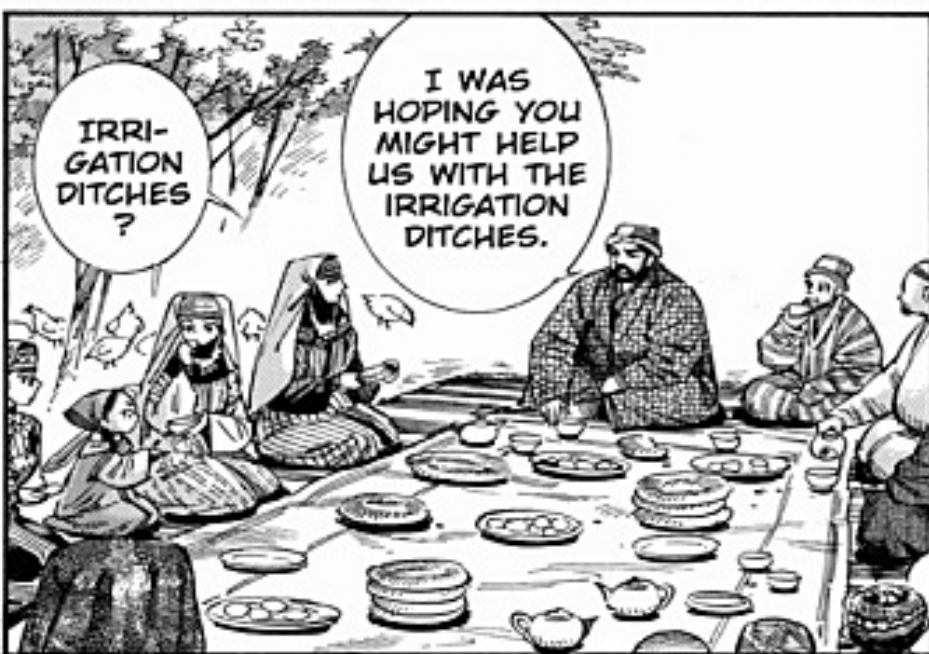






✦
CHAPTER 50
THE WORST CASE
IMAGINABLE
✦





WE WERE
HOPING THAT
THE LADIES'
CIRCLE MIGHT
BE WILLING
TO LEND A
HAND.

BUT
THE MEN
HAVE NO
TIME.

IF WE
DON'T DO
SOMETHING
SOON,
THEY'LL GET
BLOCKED.



...IT HAD
TO BE PUT
OFF DUE TO
ALL THIS
OTHER
WORK.

WE'VE
BEEN
MEANING
TO DO
IT FOR
A WHILE,
BUT...

IT SEEMS
TODAY THE
WOMEN
WILL BE
DOING
OUTSIDE
WORK.

ESPECIALLY
IF WE CAN
GET THE
CHILDREN
TO HELP.

PER-
HAPS...

IT
SHOULDN'T
BE TOO
MUCH FOR
US.



...SO ALL
THAT'S
LEFT IS TO
DISCUSS
IT AMONG
YOUR-
SELVES IN
THE LADIES'
CIRCLES.

MOST OF
THE MEN
WILL HAVE
PASSED
ON THE
MESSAGE
TO THEIR
WIVES BY
NOW...

VERY
WELL.

SIGH.

.....I
SUPPOSE
SO.





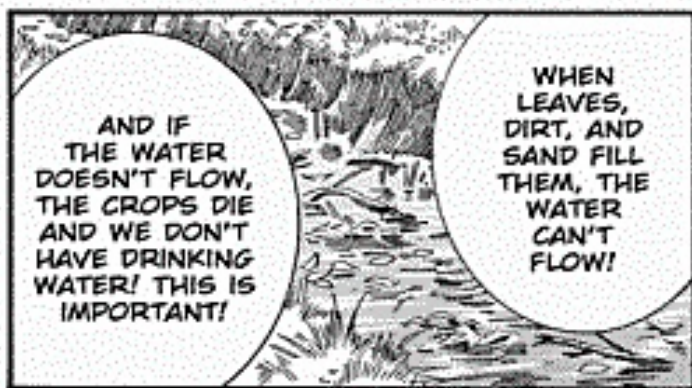
AND
NO DILLY-
DALLYING!

ALL
RIGHT,
EVERY-
ONE!
GATHER
AROUND!



YOU'VE
SEEN THEM
AROUND
TOWN, LOTS
OF WATER
RUNNING
THROUGH
THEM,
RIGHT?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
AN IRRI-
GATION
DITCH
IS?



AND IF
THE WATER
DOESN'T FLOW,
THE CROPS DIE
AND WE DON'T
HAVE DRINKING
WATER! THIS IS
IMPORTANT!

WHEN
LEAVES,
DIRT, AND
SAND FILL
THEM, THE
WATER
CAN'T
FLOW!



SO
WE'RE
GOING
TO CLEAN
THEM ALL
OUT!!



TODAY
WE START
CLEARING
THE
IRRIGATION
DITCHES!

NOW
LISTEN
UP!!



DO
YOU
HEAR
ME!?

YOU ARE
NOT TO GO
OFF AND PLAY
ON YOUR OWN!
YOU WILL DO THE
JOBS YOU ARE
ASSIGNED!

YES,
MA'AM!



NO,
I'M OKAY.
I'LL DO IT.

.....I
WON'T BE
MEETING
ANY MEN
TODAY
ANYWAY.



I'M
FINE.
TRUST
ME.



ARE
YOU SURE
YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT,
PARIYA?

YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU COULD
USE SOME
REST.....

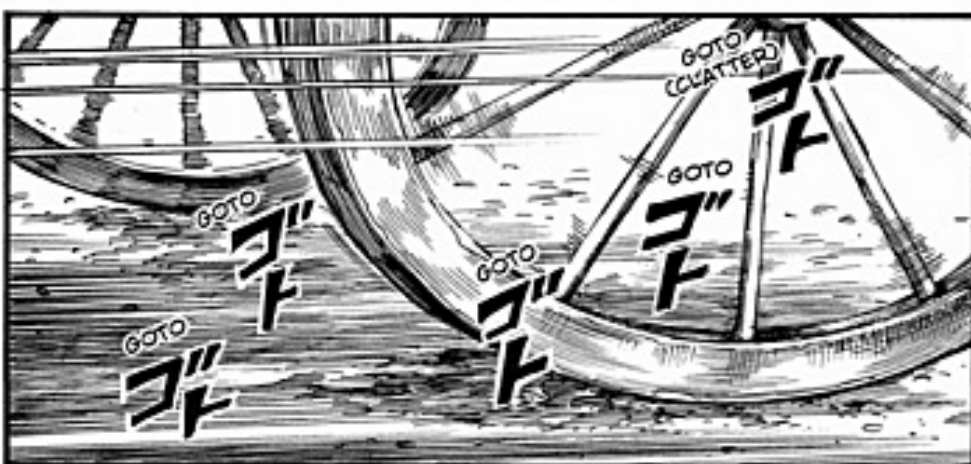


YOU OVER
THERE, TAKE
THE HALF
OF THEM
ON YOUR
SIDE.

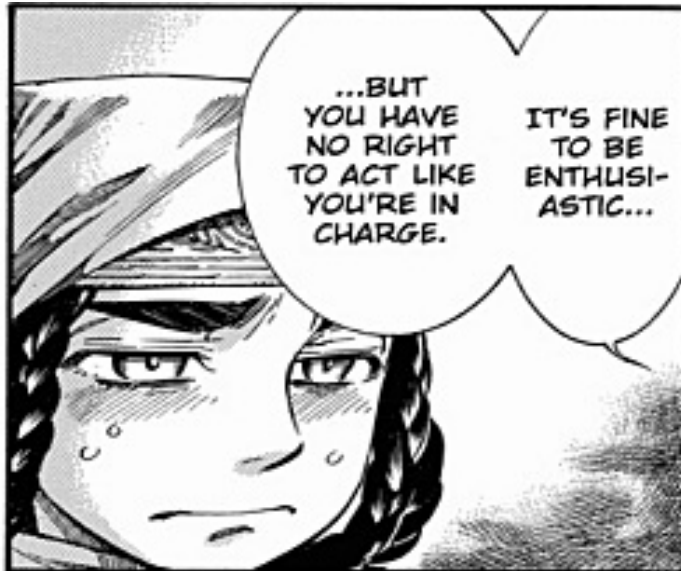
THE
REST OF
YOU, OVER
HERE.....















HOW LONG...

WHY
...!?

...HAS
HE BEEN
THERE
...!?



AH.....

AH.....

DO
DOOM!



SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU
WAITING.

LET'S
GO.



I HAD
NO
IDEA...

...YOU
WERE SO
PUSHY.

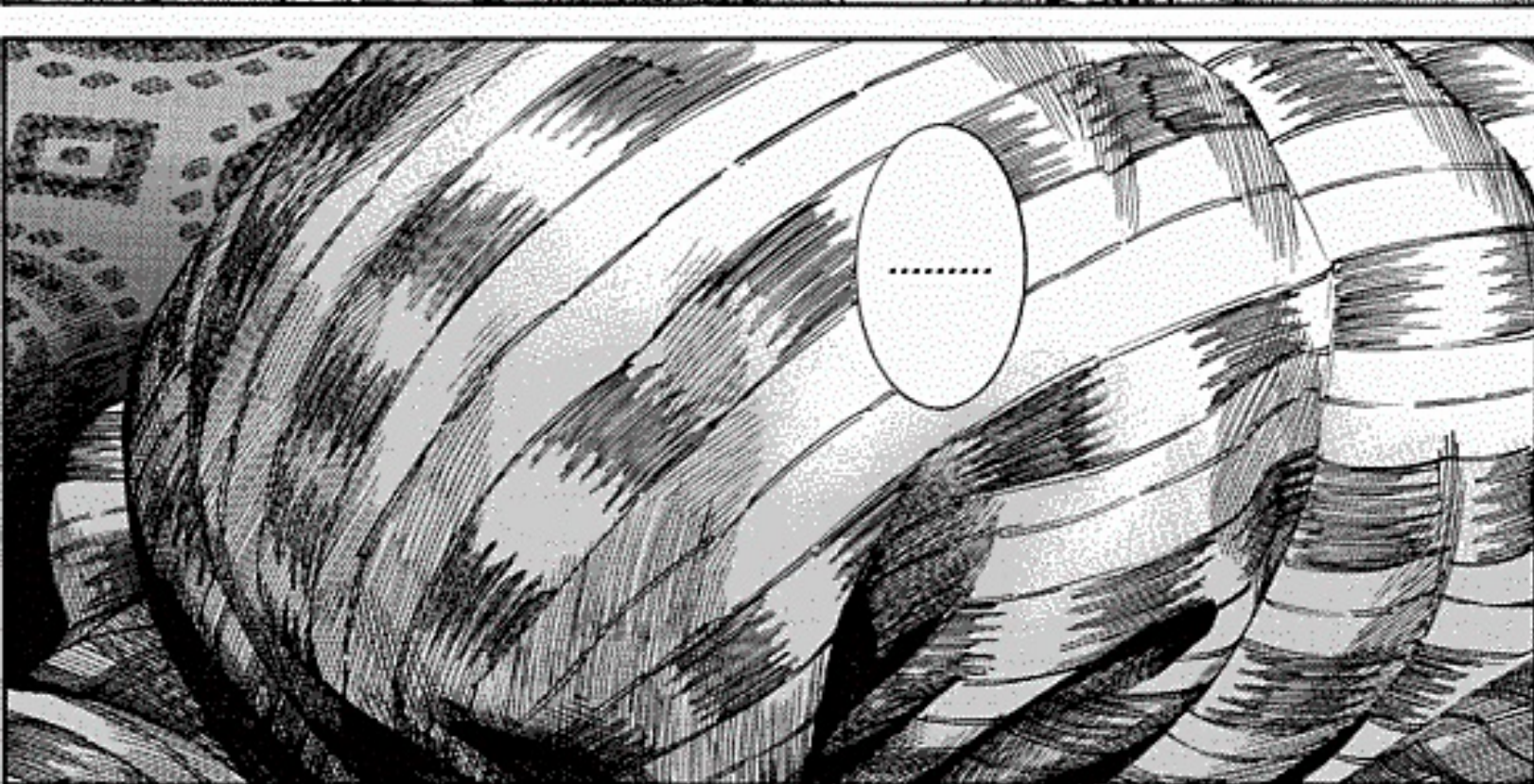
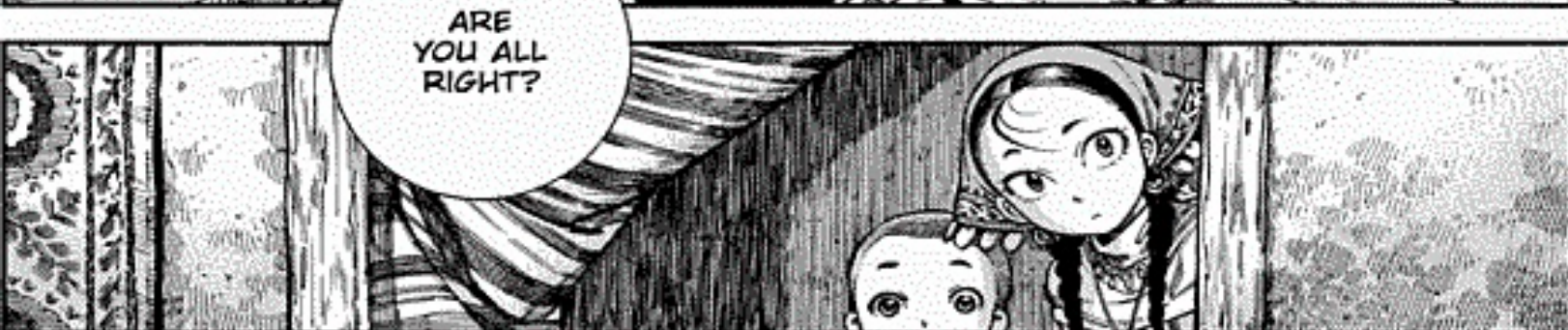


NO.....

UM...

THIS
ISN'T...







...OF THE
PART OF
ME I NEVER
WANTED HIM
TO SEE!

HE WAS
THERE,
GETTING
A FULL
VIEW...



I'M
DONE
FOR.



A
POTATO
BUG...?

I'M A
POTATO
BUG.

I'VE
BECOME
LESS
THAN A
WORM.

AND I
KNEW IT
WOULD
HAPPEN
FROM THE
START.



I'M
SURE
I'VE
RUINED
EVERY-
THING.

IT'S
ALL OVER
NOW.



PARIYA!



PARIYA...



HE
SEEMED
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
WHY
WON'T
YOU SEE
HIM?

I
WENT AND
DELIVERED
THE USUAL
BREAD AND
FRUIT TO
UMAR
TODAY.



NO,
NOTHING
IN PAR-
TICULAR.

HE SAID,
"SEE YOU
TOMOR-
ROW"...



...SOME-
THING
ABOUT
ME...?

.....
WHY?
DID HE
SAY...

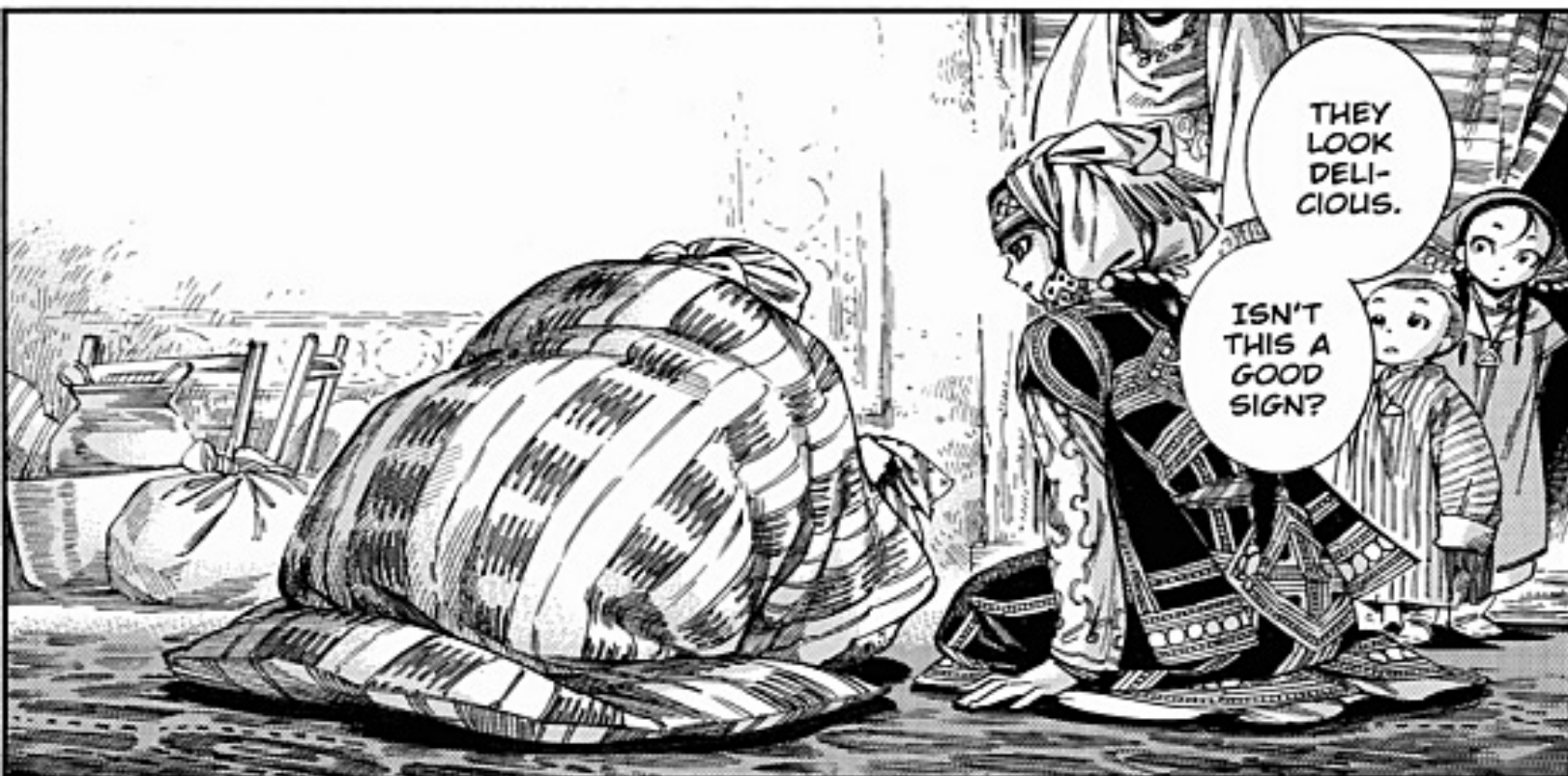


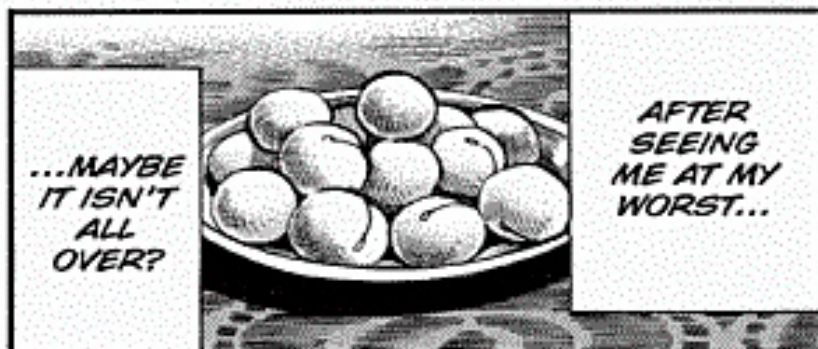
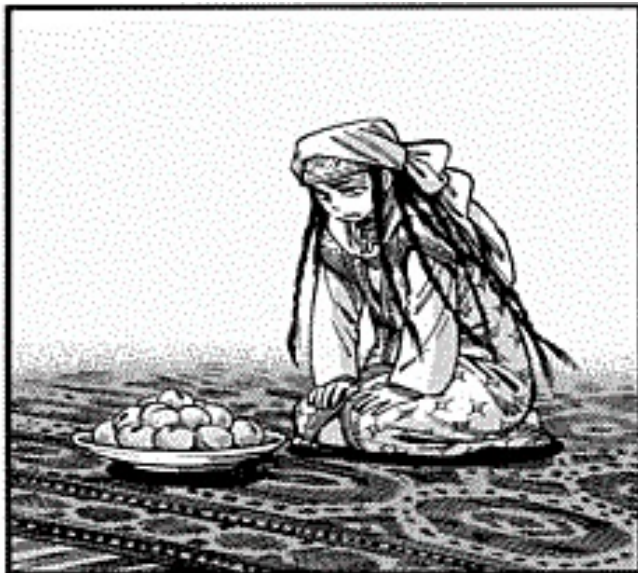
DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN
TODAY?



COME TO
THINK OF IT,
HE DID ASK
IF YOU WERE
"ALWAYS LIKE
THAT."



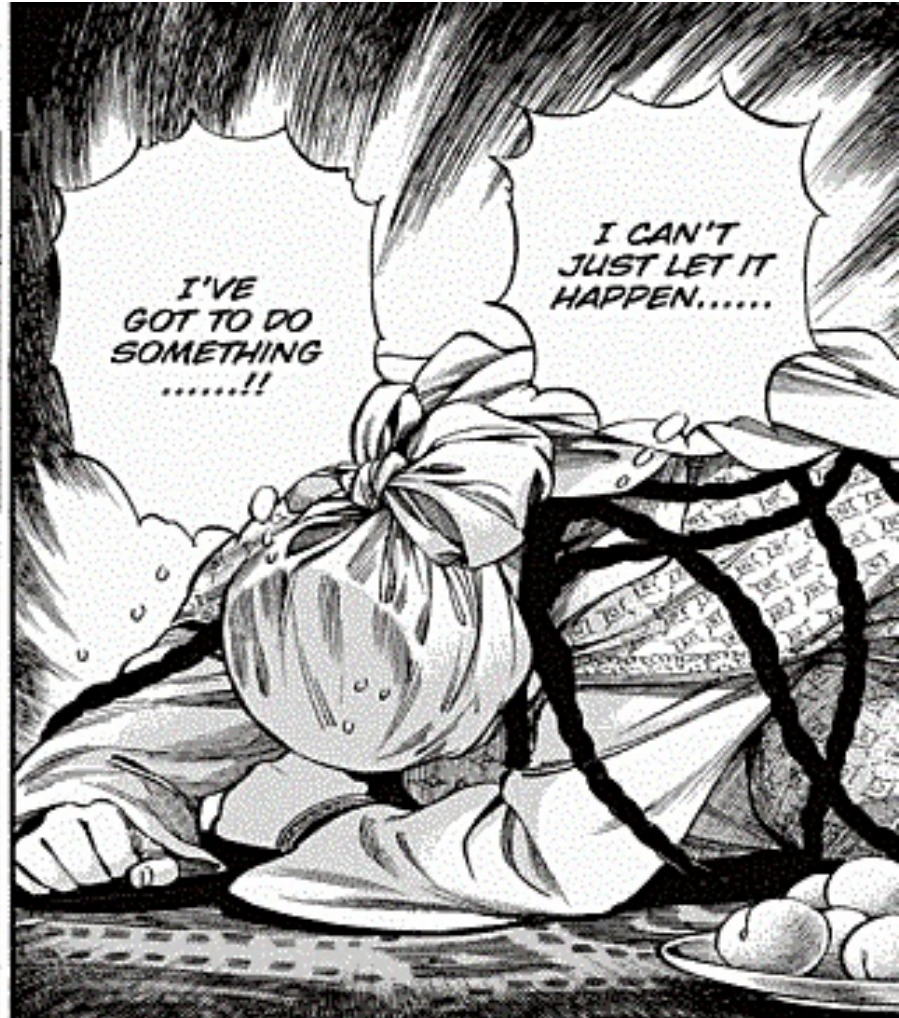






...HAVE
TO CHANGE
WHO I AM!

I...



I'VE
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING
.....!!

I CAN'T
JUST LET IT
HAPPEN.....



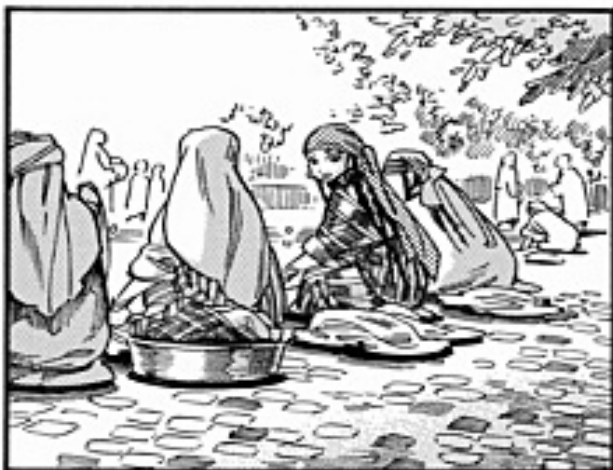
I HAVE
TO BECOME
THE IDEAL
ME!







◆
CHAPTER 51
PARIYA'S
DECISION
◆



KAMOLA OF
THE RAHIM
FAMILY...



SHE HAS
A REAL
TALENT
FOR
SINGING
AND
DANCING.

AND
IT'S NOT
JUST HER
ABILITY
TO SEW
AND KEEP
HOUSE...



VISITORS
COME TO
HER FATHER
PRETTY
MUCH EVERY
DAY.

OF
COURSE HER
FAMILY IS
PRACTICALLY
FIGHTING
OFF THE
SUITORS.



A BRIGHT
PERSONALITY,
ENERGETIC,
KIND TO
EVERYONE,
AND REALLY
GOOD WITH
KIDS.

AND ALL
THE OTHER
GIRLS
HER AGE
SEEM TO
RESPECT
HER.

WITH A CHILD
LIKE KAMOLA,
A MOTHER
WOULD HAVE
NO WORRIES
AT ALL!

NGH!

A GIRL
LIKE
THAT IS
A RARE
GEM!

OH,
SO AM
I!

I'M SO
JEALOUS
OF HER
MOTHER!

KAMOLA
REALLY IS
THE FINEST
YOUNG
LADY IN
TOWN!



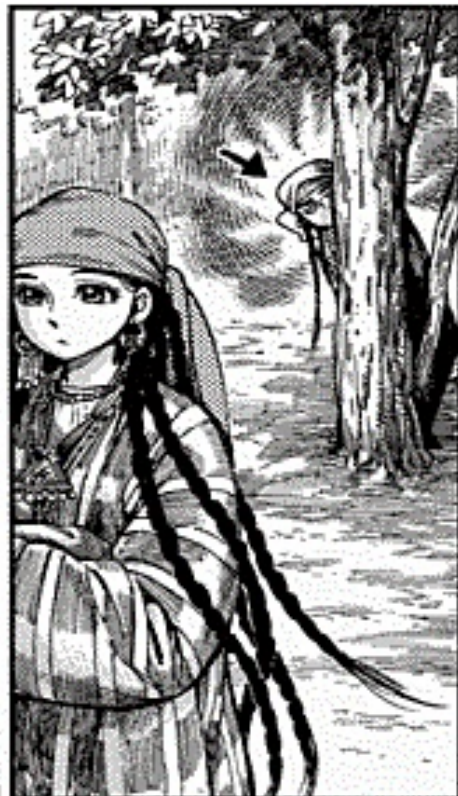
IN OTHER
WORDS,
IF I CAN
MANAGE
TO BE LIKE
HER...

KA
(FLASH)

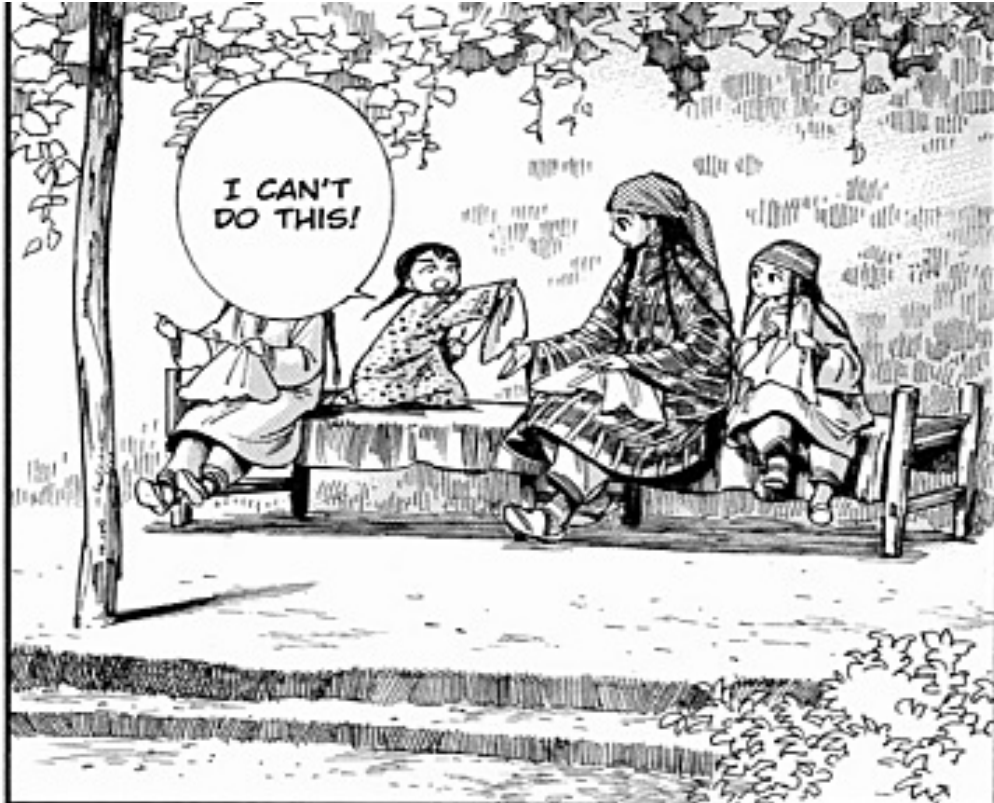
...THEN
I'LL BE
ONE STEP
CLOSER TO
THE IDEAL
ME!!

AS
FAR AS I
KNOW...

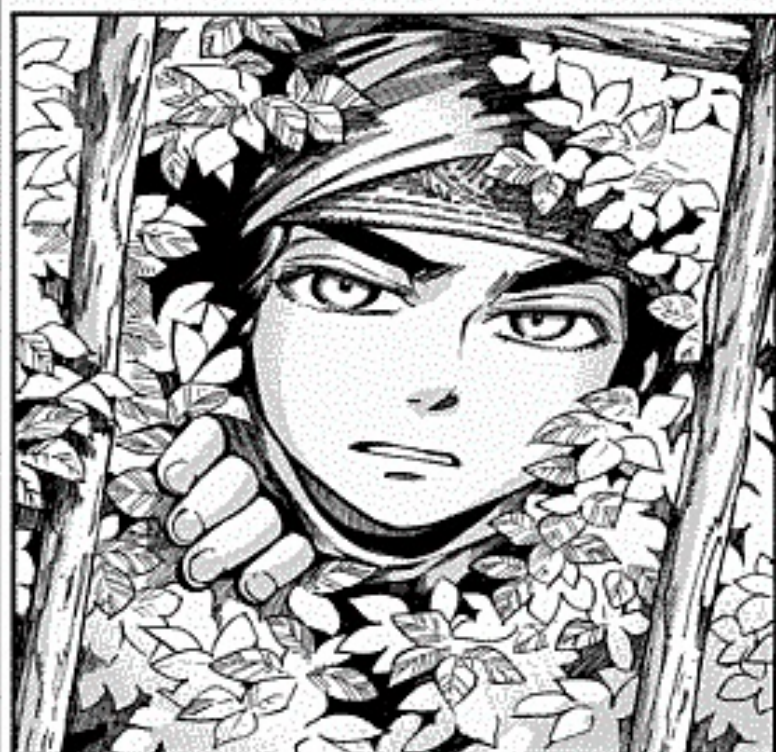
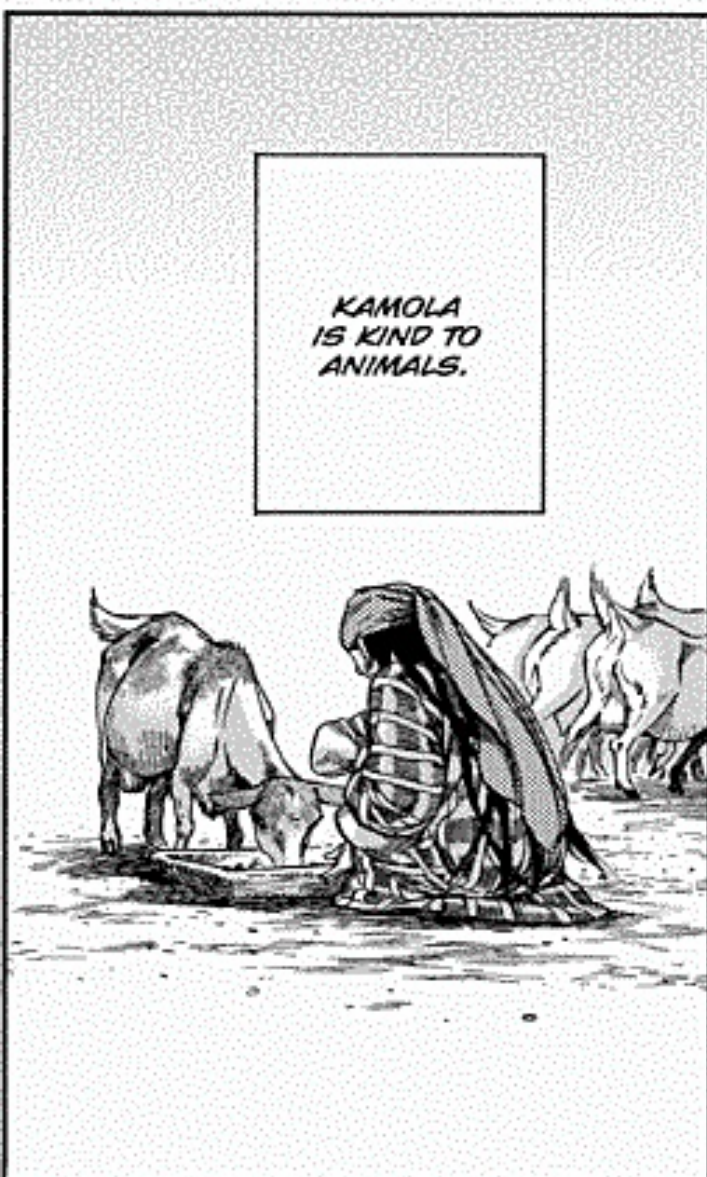
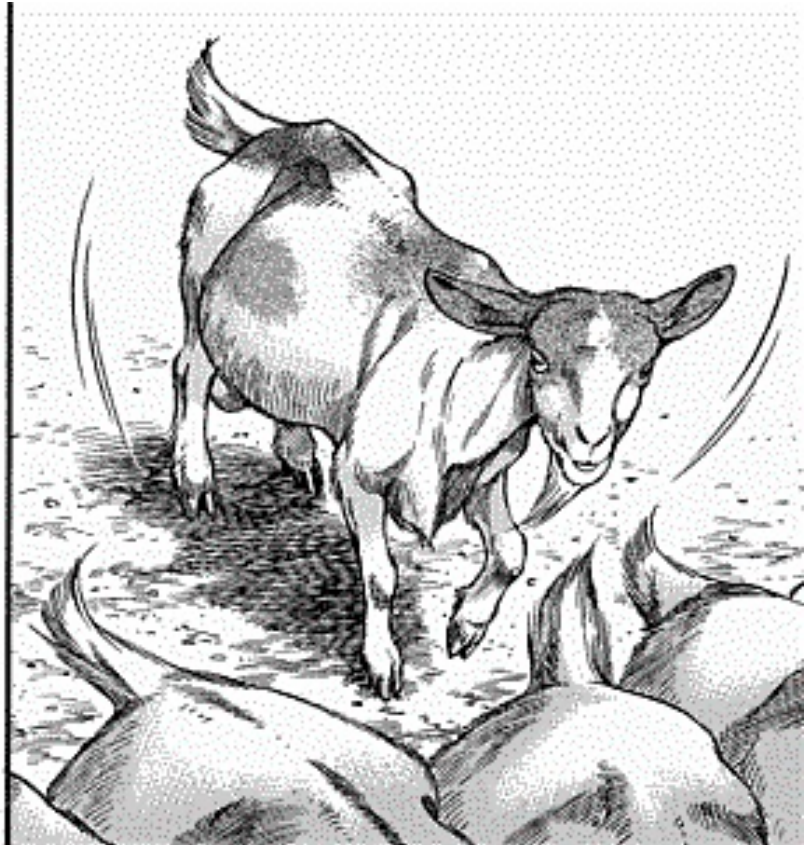
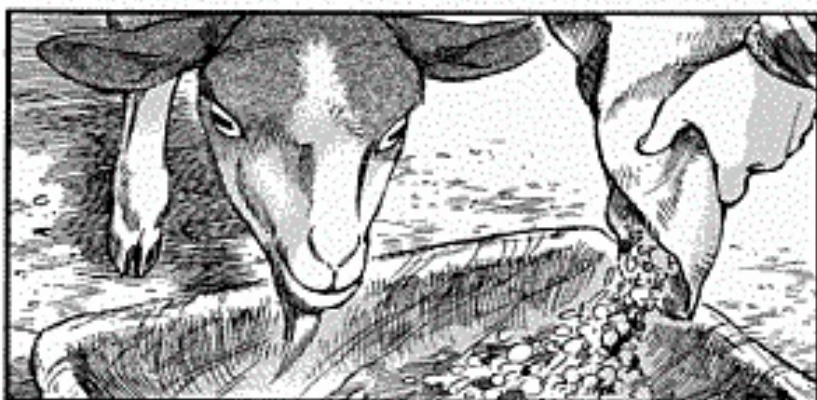
...THERE
ARE NO
GIRLS IN THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD WITH
AS GOOD A
REPUTATION
AS HERS!



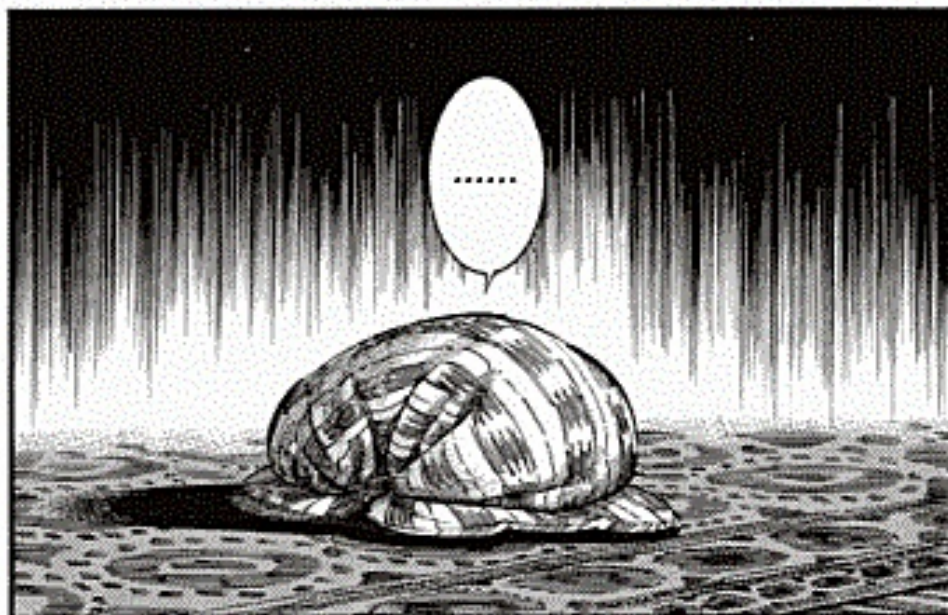




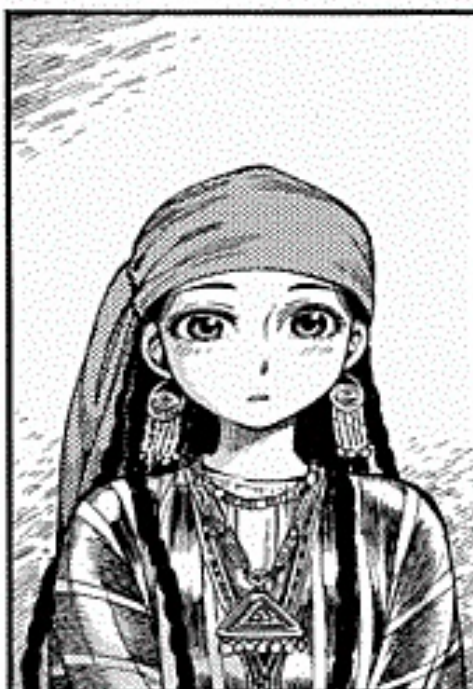














I MEAN,
YOU HAVE
A GREAT
REPUTATION,
AND
EVERYBODY
TALKS ABOUT
HOW NICE
YOU ARE.

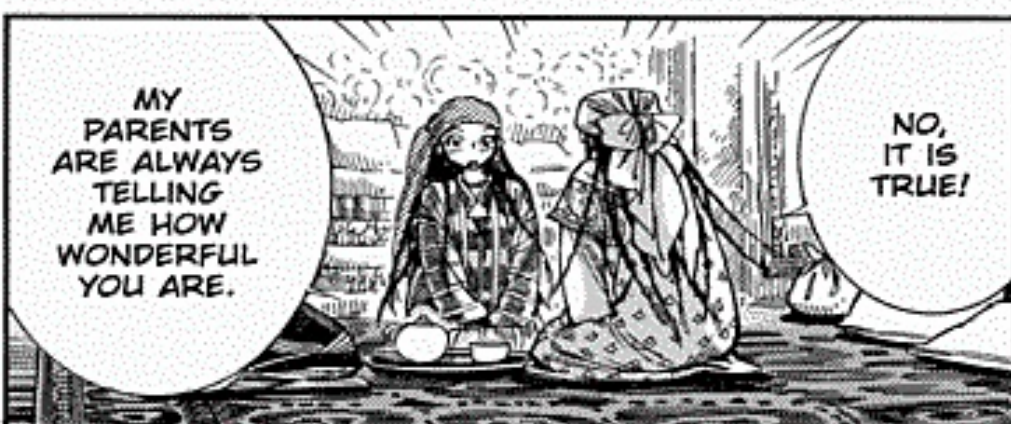


...SOME-
THING
THAT WAS
KIND OF
WEIGHING
ON MY
MIND.

THERE
WAS...



I WAS JUST
WONDERING
HOW YOU DID
THINGS.



MY
PARENTS
ARE ALWAYS
TELLING
ME HOW
WONDERFUL
YOU ARE.

NO,
IT IS
TRUE!



THAT
ISN'T TRUE!
NOBODY
THINKS—



AND THE
TRUTH IS,
I'M
JEALOUS!

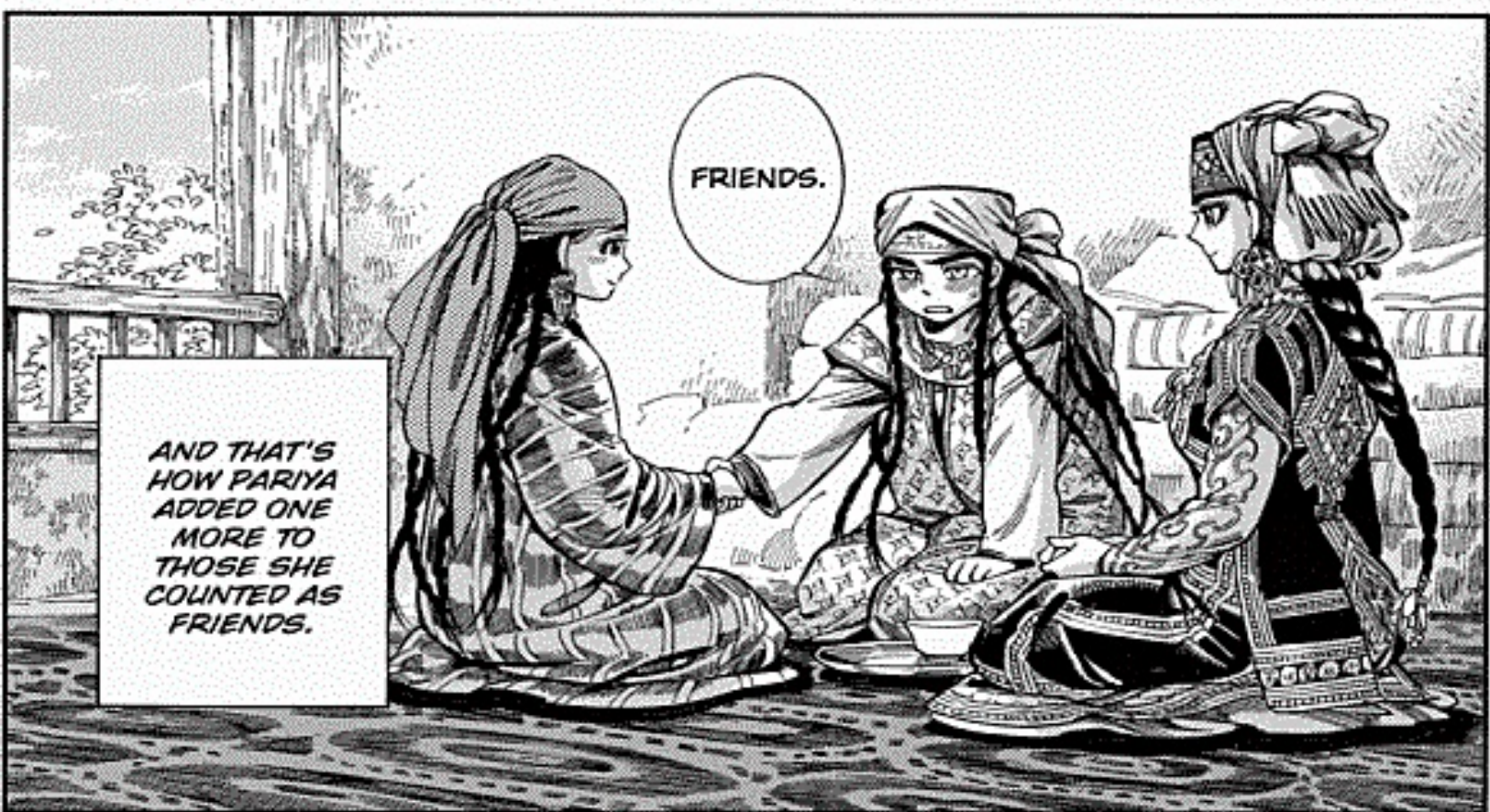


AND
THERE'S
NOBODY
WHO
DISLIKES
YOU!

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
ABLE
TO DO
EVERY-
THING
RIGHT!







AFTERWORD





Come! Springtime!

(FROM THE HEART!)

AND
MAKE IT
QUICK!

STILL,
YOU KNEW
THINGS
COULDN'T GO
SMOOTHLY
FOR
PARIYA!

EVEN SO,
IT'S ALMOST
LIKE THINGS
ARE MOVING
BACKWARD.

WHAT!?

AND
WE'RE
ALREADY AT
A BRIDE'S
STORY,
VOL. 8!

A WINTER
MORNING;
AWAKE,
BUT CAN'T LEAVE
THE WARMTH;
BED-POTATO
BUG.

HELLO,
EVERY-
ONE! I'M
KAORU
MORI!

PARIYA'S
CHAPTER
HAS
BEGUN!

MOST PEOPLE
DON'T USE
SUCH POLITE
LANGUAGE
WHEN THEY
ARE CLOSE
IN AGE.

THE REASON
PARIYA TALKS
MORE FORMALLY
THAN KAMOLA
IS BECAUSE
PARIYA IS
STANDOFFISH
TO EVERYONE.

SHE ISN'T
CONSIDERED
TO BE OF A
MARRIAGE-
ABLE AGE
QUITE YET.

LIKE A VERY
SMART UNDER-
CLASSMAN.

SHE MAY
SEEM OLDER,
BUT SHE'S
ACTUALLY
TWO OR
THREE YEARS
YOUNGER
THAN PARIYA.

AND
THIS TIME,
SHE'S
MADE A
FRIEND
NAMED
KAMOLA.

THEY'VE
GONE
EXTINCT
NOW.

ALSO, IN THE
"GAZELLE" STORY,
WE SEE THE
CASPIAN TIGER
THAT LIVED IN
THAT REGION
LONG AGO.

THEY SAY
IT WAS A
BEAUTIFUL
ANIMAL
SIMILAR TO
THE SIBERIAN
TIGER.

BONK!



I WANT TO GIVE A BIG SHOUT-OUT TO PROCO AIR (THE TRAVEL AGENCY) FOR MANAGING TO PACK SO MUCH INTO MY LIMITED TIME.

SINCE WE WERE ON A TIGHT TIMETABLE, I HAD TO LIMIT IT TO THREE COUNTRIES THIS TIME.

AND ACTUALLY GOT TO VISIT CENTRAL ASIA!!

...MY DEAREST WISH!!

...BUT I FINALLY REALIZED...

ANYWAY, THIS MAY BE A LITTLE SUDDEN ...

KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYSTAN

NO WAY!

YEAH!



AN UZBEKISTAN DITCH OR SOMETHING!!



AN UZBEKISTAN WALL!!



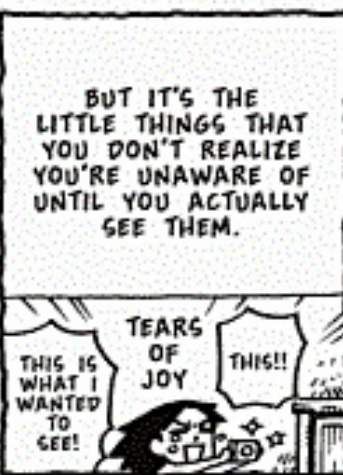
AN UZBEKISTAN TREE!!



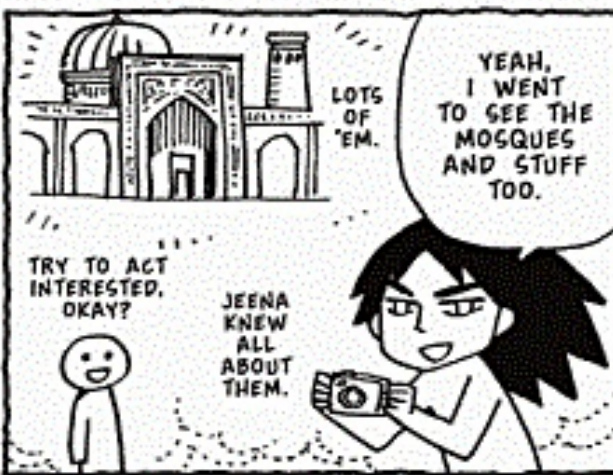
UZBEKISTAN IS THE MODEL FOR KARLUK'S TOWN.

FIRST WAS UZBEKISTAN.

IT'S NEAR BUKHARA.



BUT IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT YOU DON'T REALIZE YOU'RE UNAWARE OF UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY SEE THEM.

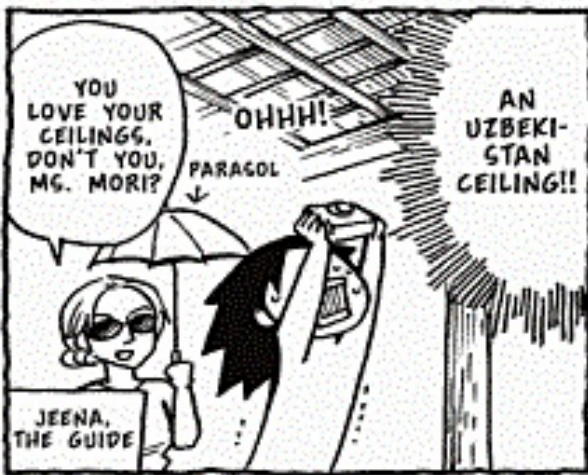


LOTS OF 'EM.

YEAH, I WENT TO SEE THE MOSQUES AND STUFF TOO.

TRY TO ACT INTERESTED, OKAY?

JEENA KNEW ALL ABOUT THEM.



YOU LOVE YOUR CEILINGS, DON'T YOU, MG. MORI?

OHHH!

PARASOL

AN UZBEKISTAN CEILING!!



SO THIS IS WHAT GAS MONEY CAN DO...!!

I WAS COMPLETELY FLABBERGASTED BY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.



KAZAKHSTAN IS BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT NATURAL GAS, SO IT'S A VERY WEALTHY AND DEVELOPED COUNTRY.



AND THEN TO KAZAKHSTAN.

KAZAKHSTAN

ALMATY

TASHKENT

KYRG.

UZBEKISTAN

BIG!

ASIDE FROM THAT, KAZAKHSTAN IS...

I EVEN HELPED OUT WHEN I WAS A KID.

THE HORSES LOVE THE GRASS HERE.

MY FAMILY OWNS LIVE-STOCK.

HORSES, SHEEP, AND THE LIKE...

SOME PEOPLE STILL USE YURTS TODAY.

I CAN ALMOST SEE THE YURTS.

SINCE KAZAKHSTAN USED TO BE HORSE LANDS, IT WAS THE MODEL COUNTRY FOR AZEL AND THE REST OF AMIR'S ORIGINAL CLAN.

COOL!

AN ELDERLY FARMER

EVEN NOW, THEY USE HORSES INSTEAD OF MOTOR-CYCLES.

OOH!

I STAYED OVER-NIGHT IN A TINY VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

BUT IT'S MORE MOUNTAINOUS.

KYRGYZSTAN WAS, LIKE KAZAKHSTAN, A HORSE COUNTRY.

AND THEN, KYRGYZSTAN.

THE MODEL COUNTRY FOR GRANDMA.

HE'S A JAPANESE TEACHER BY DAY.

T-T-T. TELL ME EVERYTHING IN DETAIL!

MY GUIDE, SAMAL, WAS SO COOL, HE LEFT ME TREMBLING.

PUP-PIES

YAP!

YAP!

BAKING BREAD

FALCON HUNTING

HORSE-BACK RIDING

CHICK-ENS

APPLES

I INTEND TO USE THE RESEARCH AND MATERIALS FROM THIS TRIP TO THE FULLEST IN MY WORK!

SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

YOU PACKED IN THE PAPER, HUNT?

THE END

AND SO...

APPARENTLY IT'S BETTER TO JUST BUY A CHEAP TRUNK THERE FOR HAULING BACK YOUR STUFF.

OF COURSE I BOUGHT AS MANY REFERENCE BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS THAT I COULD, AND BUILT UP MY COURAGE TO HAUL THEM ALL HOME. (THE POSTAL SERVICE IS UNRELIABLE.)

I'M SO GLAD I DRAW MANGA FOR A LIVING!

...IS WHAT I THOUGHT.

AND AS I LAY IN BED IN A KYRGYZSTAN GUEST-HOUSE...

A BRIDE'S STORY ⑧



KAORU MORI

TRANSLATION: WILLIAM FLANAGAN

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

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